

ABSOLUTE

# BATMAN



ALL IN

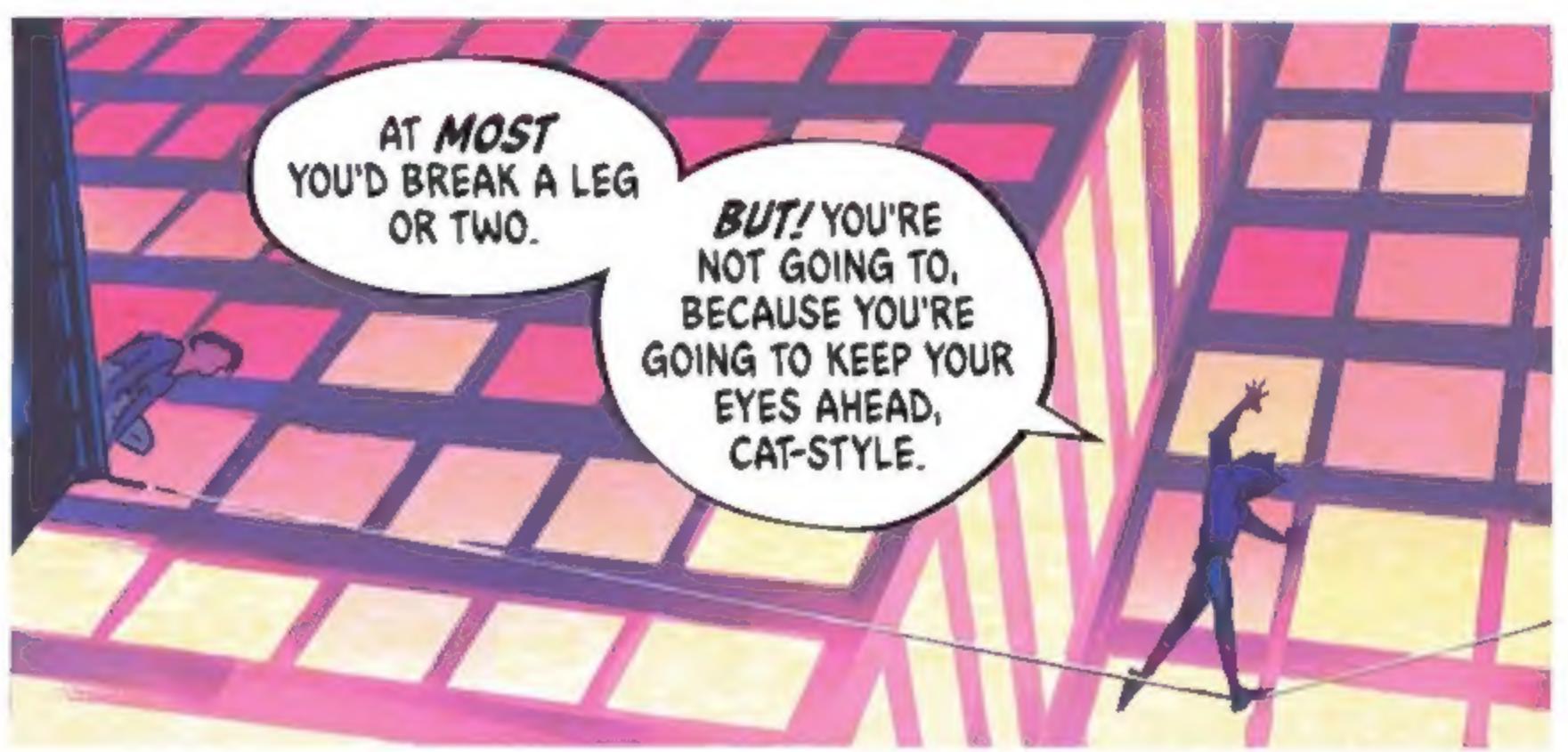
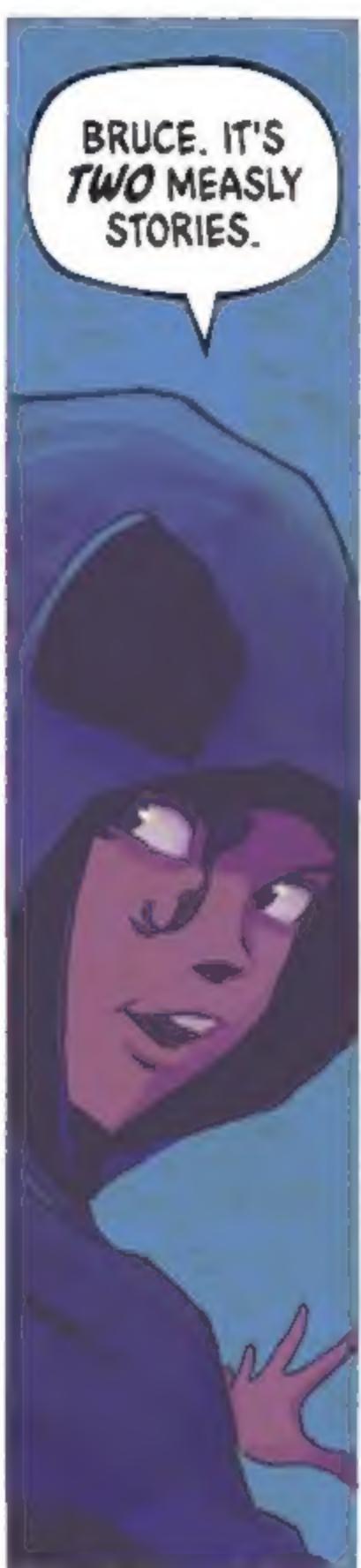
13+ TEEN

3



SNYDER  
DRAGOTTA  
MARTIN

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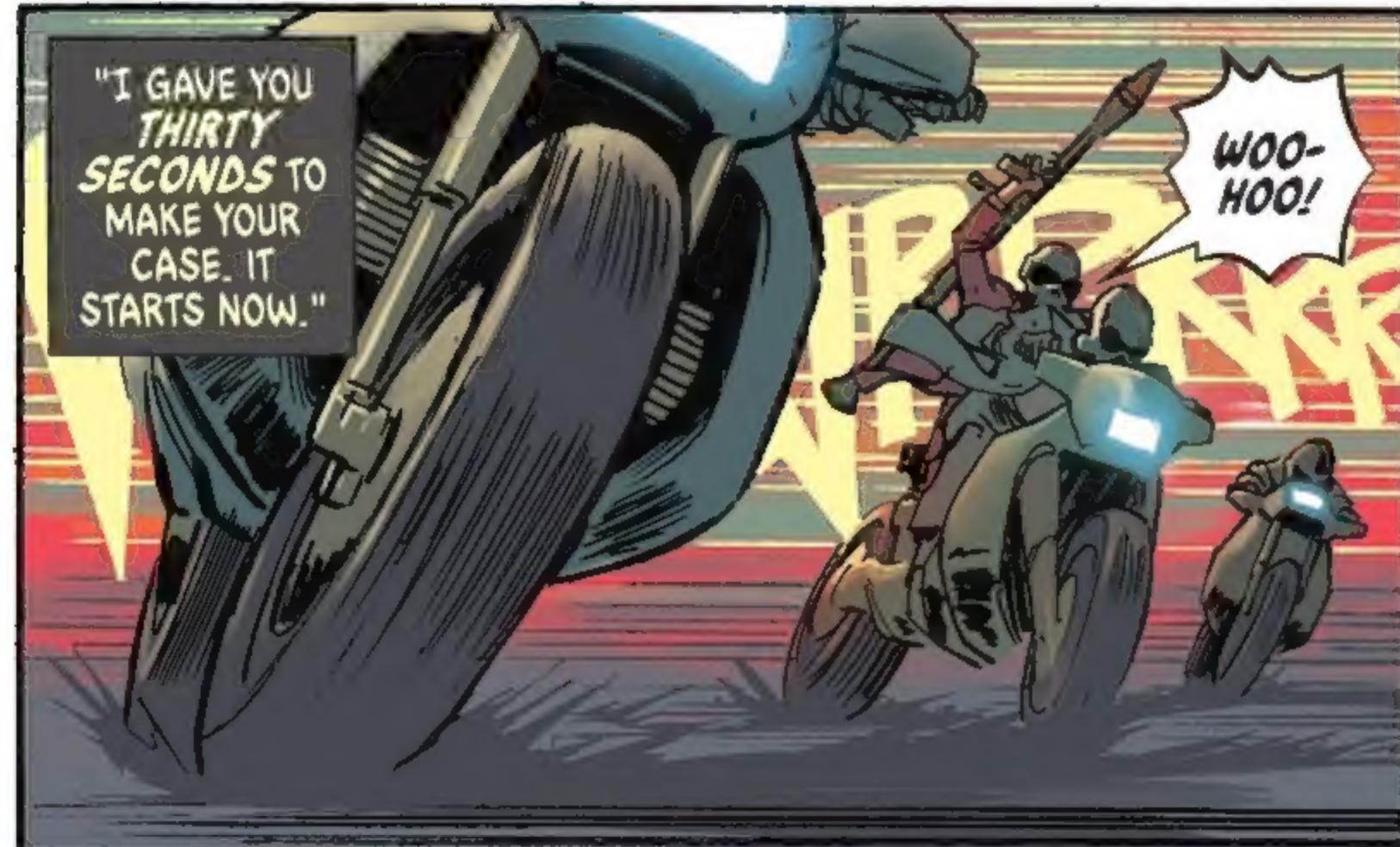
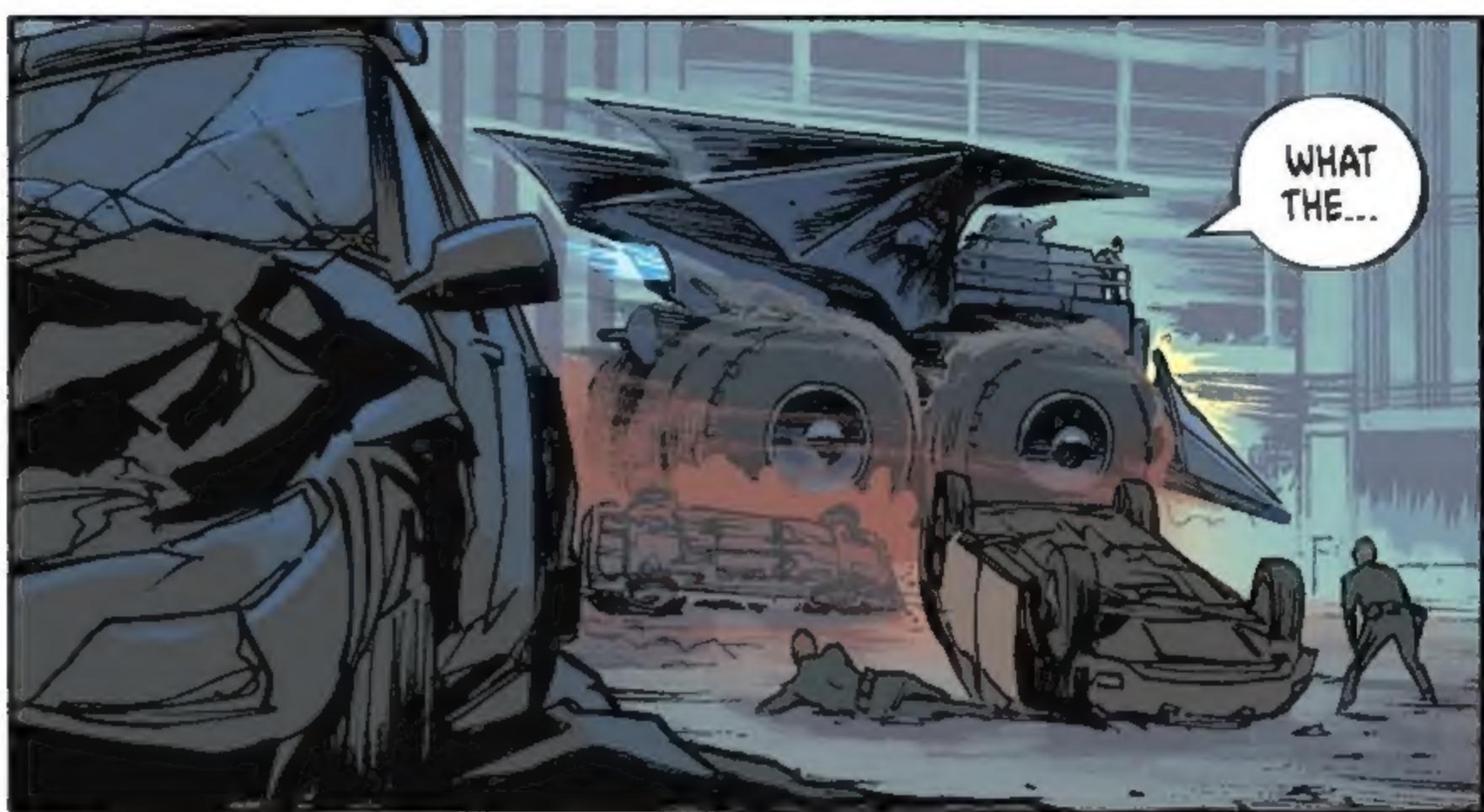
**ABSOLUTE  
BATMAN**

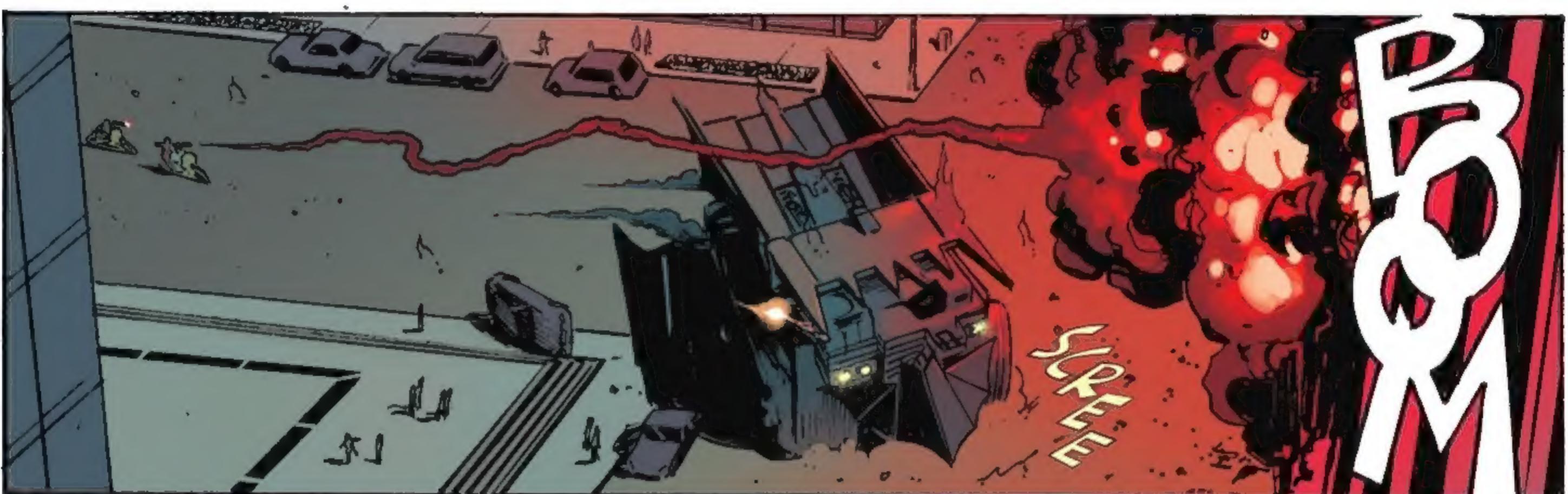
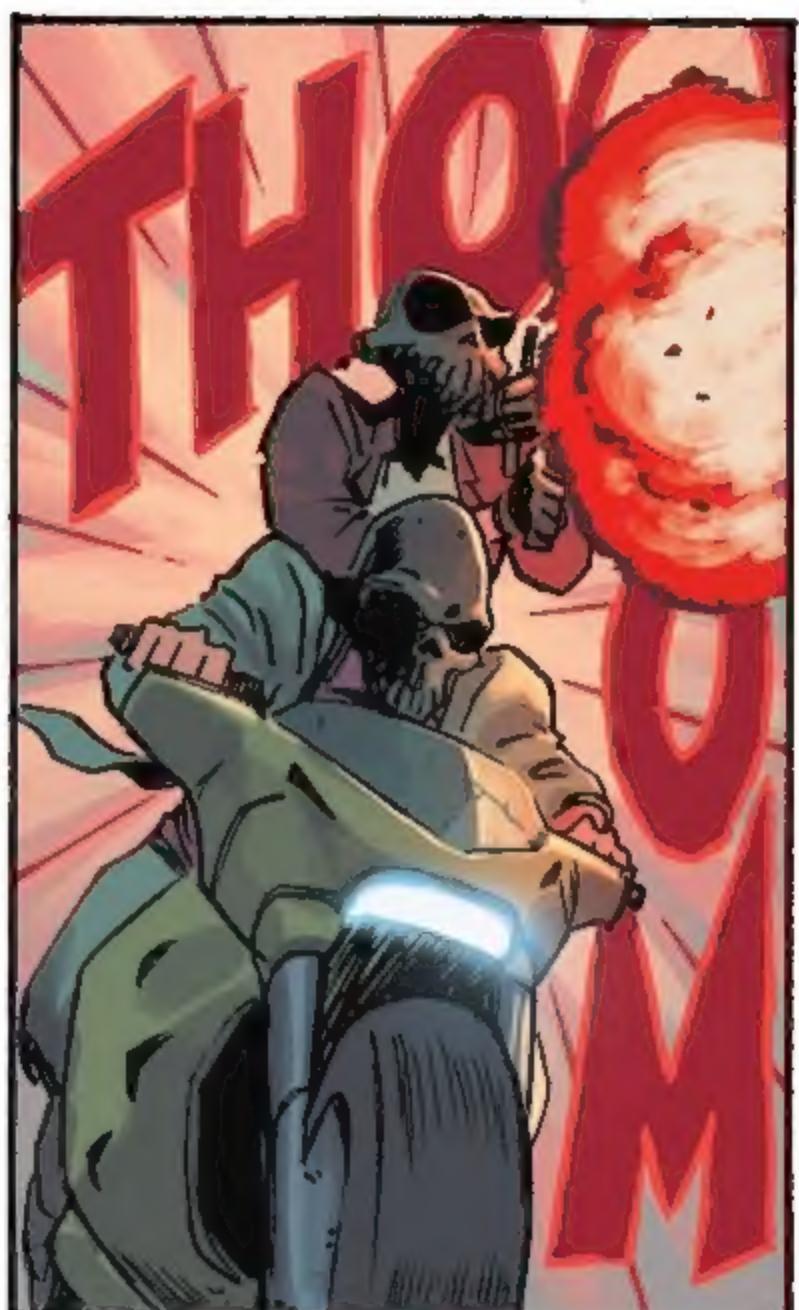
# "THE ZOO"

**PART THREE**

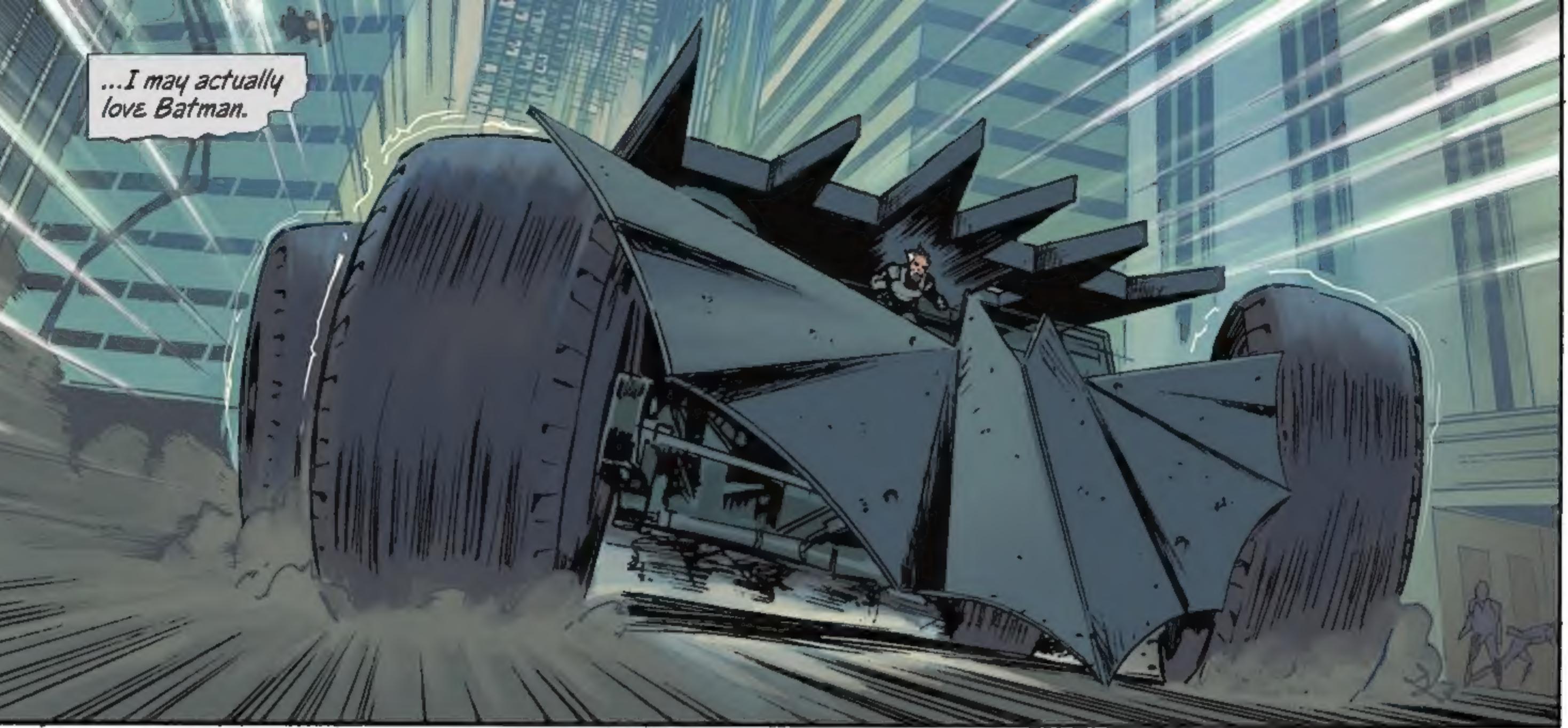
WRITER: SCOTT SNYDER • ARTIST: NICK DRAGOTTA  
COLORIST: FRANK MARTIN • LETTERER: CLAYTON COWLES

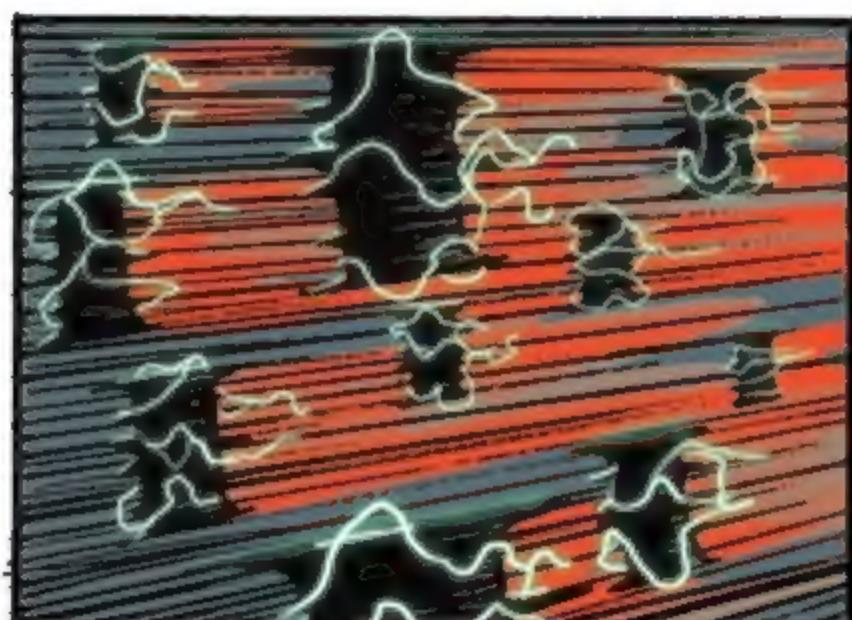
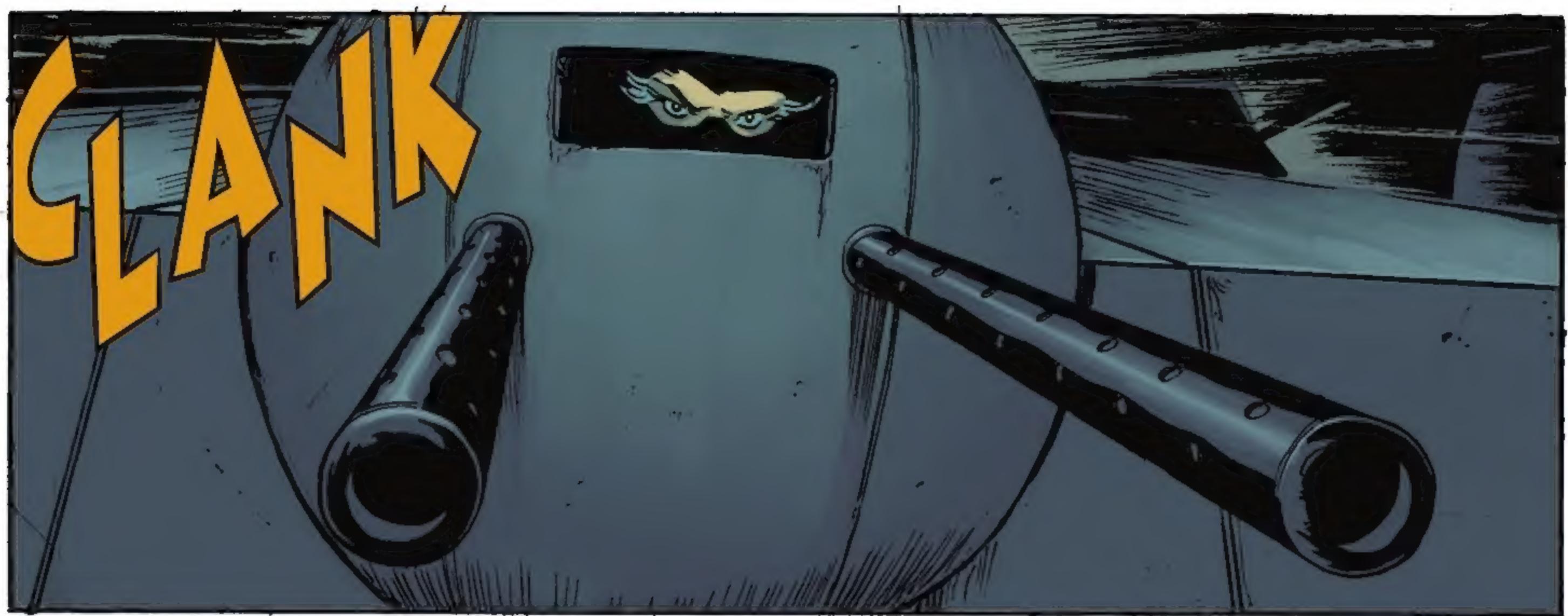
COVER: DRAGOTTA & MARTIN • VARIANT COVERS: BECKY CLOONAN, GABRIELE DELL'OTTO,  
RILEY ROSSMO & IVAN PLASCENCIA, and STEVAN SUBIC • ASSOCIATE EDITOR: SABRINA FUTCH  
EDITOR: KATIE KUBERT • EXECUTIVE EDITOR: CHRIS CONROY • BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER





*...I may actually love Batman.*





BUT HE OFFERED YOU A DEAL BACK THERE. I HEARD HIM! THAT MEANS HE'S READY TO COMPROMISE.

MY GUESS IS, WHATEVER HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO ACHIEVE WITH THESE ATTACKS ON GOTHAM, IT'S ALMOST DONE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



I'M SAYING YOU MEET HIM, AGREE TO STEP DOWN YOUR FIGHT. I'LL BET HE'LL LOWER THE ATTACKS ON GOTHAM TO ALMOST NOTHING. MAYBE EVEN STOP THEM. YOU GET TO BE THE HERO.

BY QUITTING?  
FORGET IT.

"BY SAVING LIVES THROUGH DIPLOMACY. BY BEING A #\\$%& GROWN UP! AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH...

"...BLACK MASK SERVES SOME OF THE RICHEST GLOBAL PLUTOCRATS. THIS OFFER, IT'S PROBABLY FOR A HUNDRED MILLION, MORE...

"YOU TAKE IT, YOU CAN SET BATMAN UP AS SOMETHING REAL HERE.

"SOMETHING WITH IMPACT."

AND WHAT'S IN THIS FOR YOU?

"FOR SIONIS TO MAKE THE DEAL, HE'LL NEED TO MAKE TRANSACTIONS THAT WILL LIKELY GIVE MY PEOPLE ALL THEY NEED ON HIM.

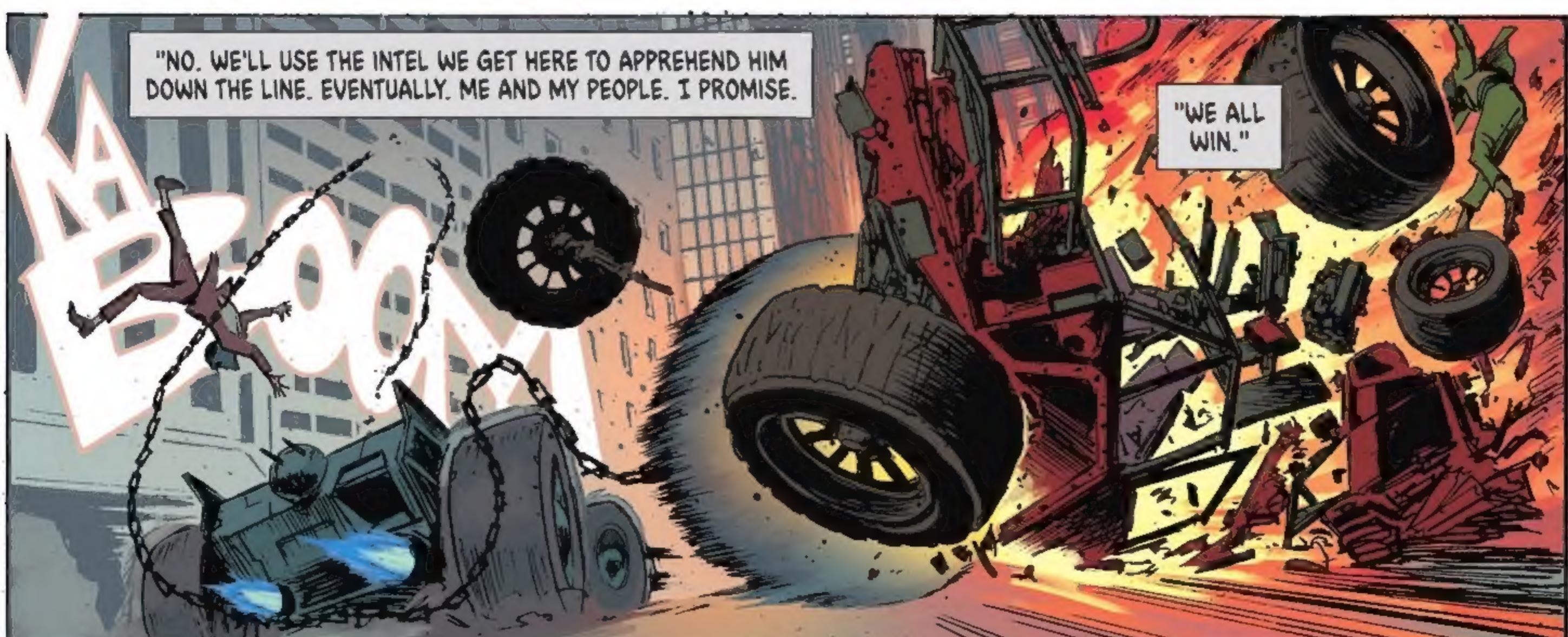
"SO ME? I GET TO LEAVE THIS CITY. AND YOU GET TO BUILD BATMAN BIG."

"REALLY BIG."

AND SIONIS JUST GETS AWAY?

"NO. WE'LL USE THE INTEL WE GET HERE TO APPREHEND HIM DOWN THE LINE. EVENTUALLY. ME AND MY PEOPLE. I PROMISE.

"WE ALL WIN."



Behind us, the sirens grow loud.

But I note that he has stopped his blasted countdown. He's hearing me, finally. He's listening, thank God.

ERRTT

THIS IS COMMISSIONER HARVEY BULLOCK! YOU WILL EXIT THE VEHICLE NOW!

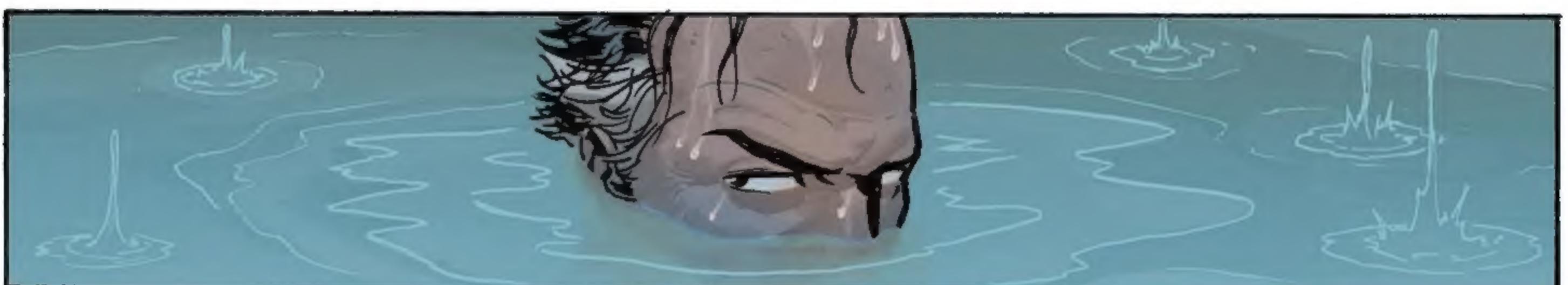
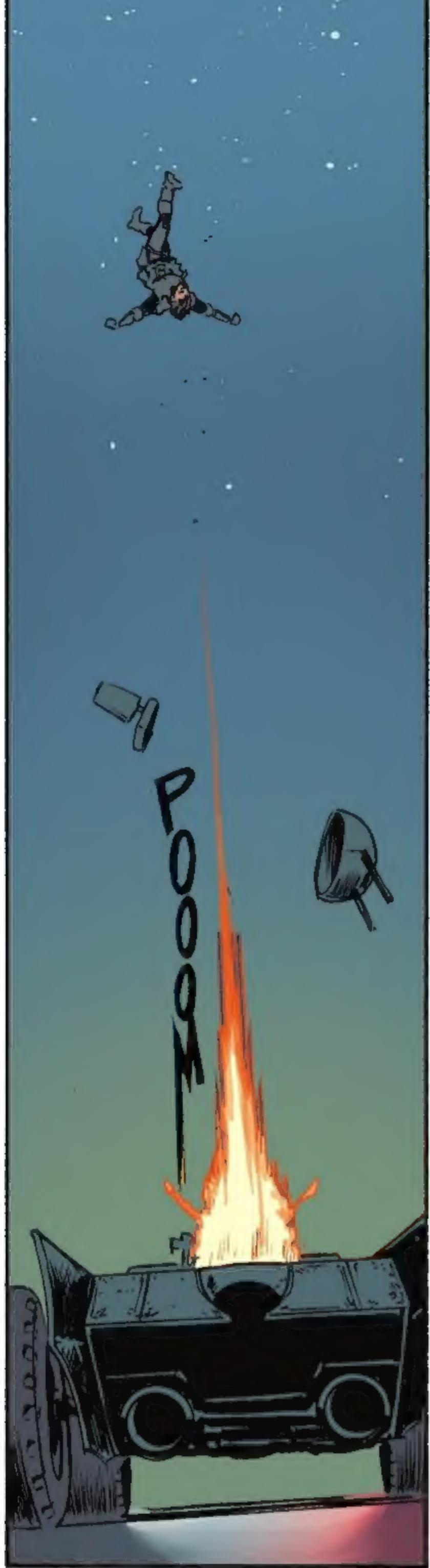
YOU AND WHOEVER ELSE YOU GOT IN THERE! YOU HEAR ME?!

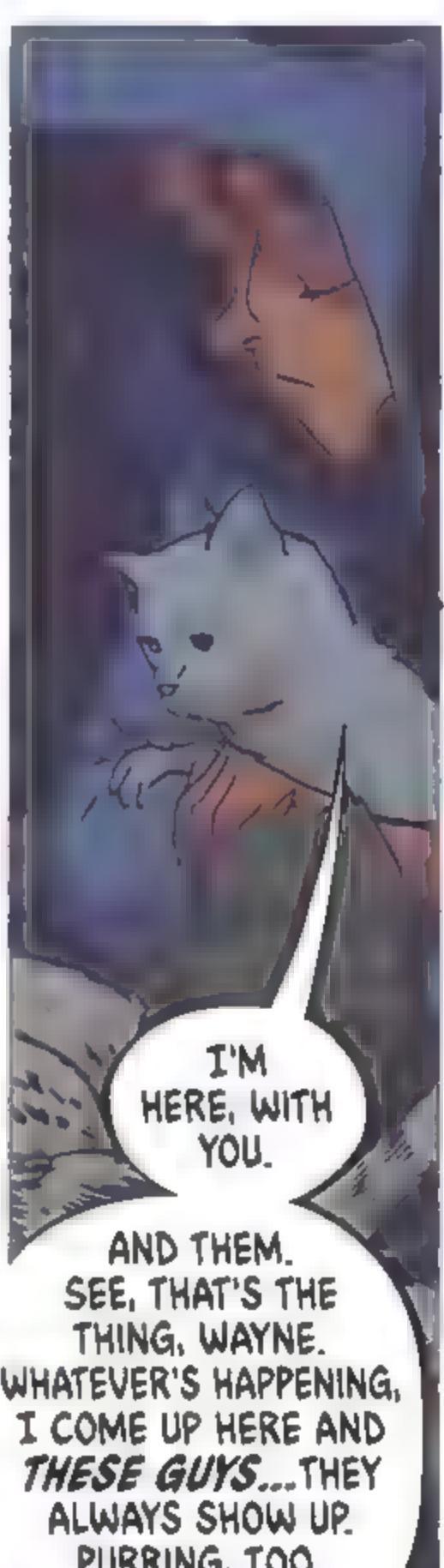
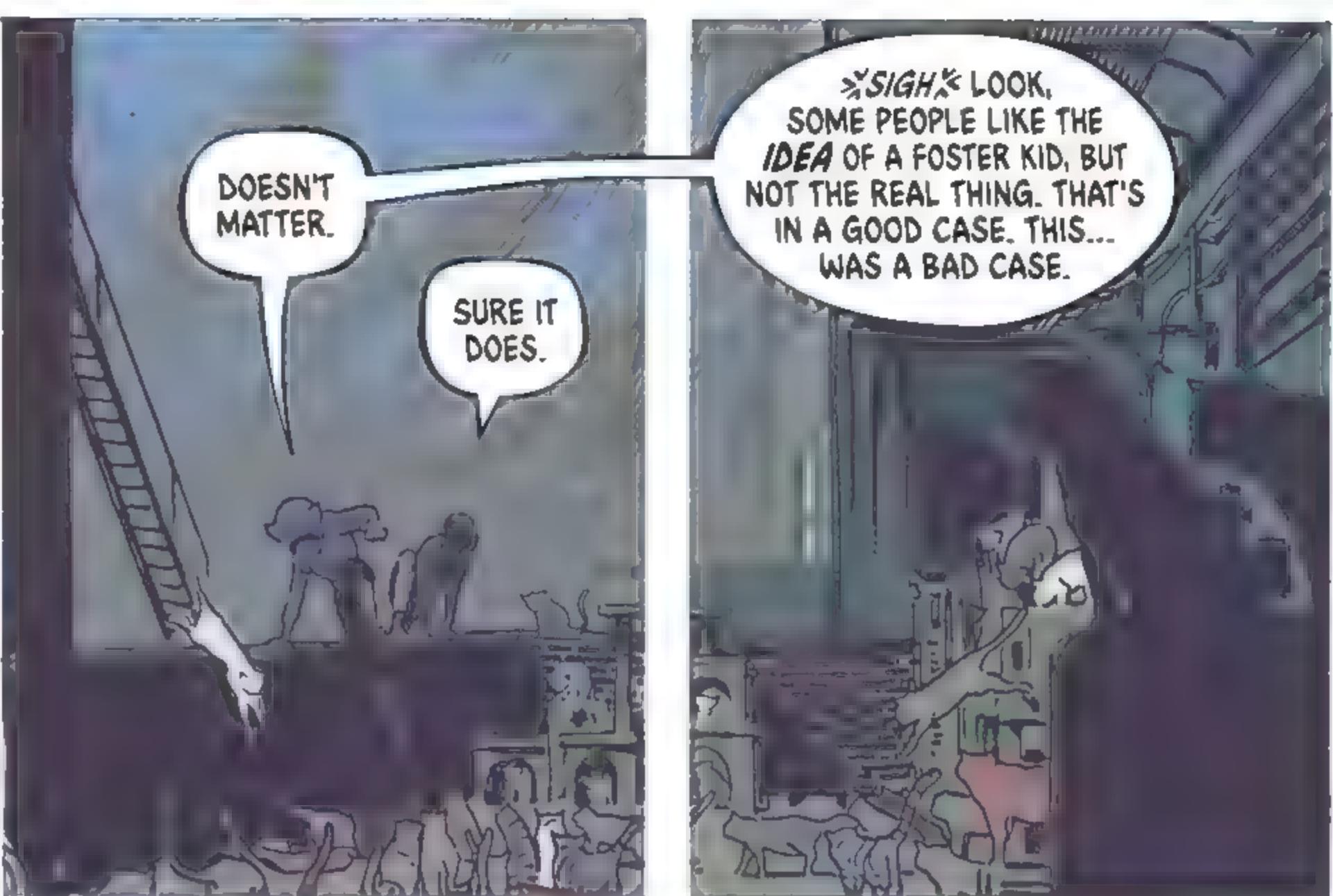
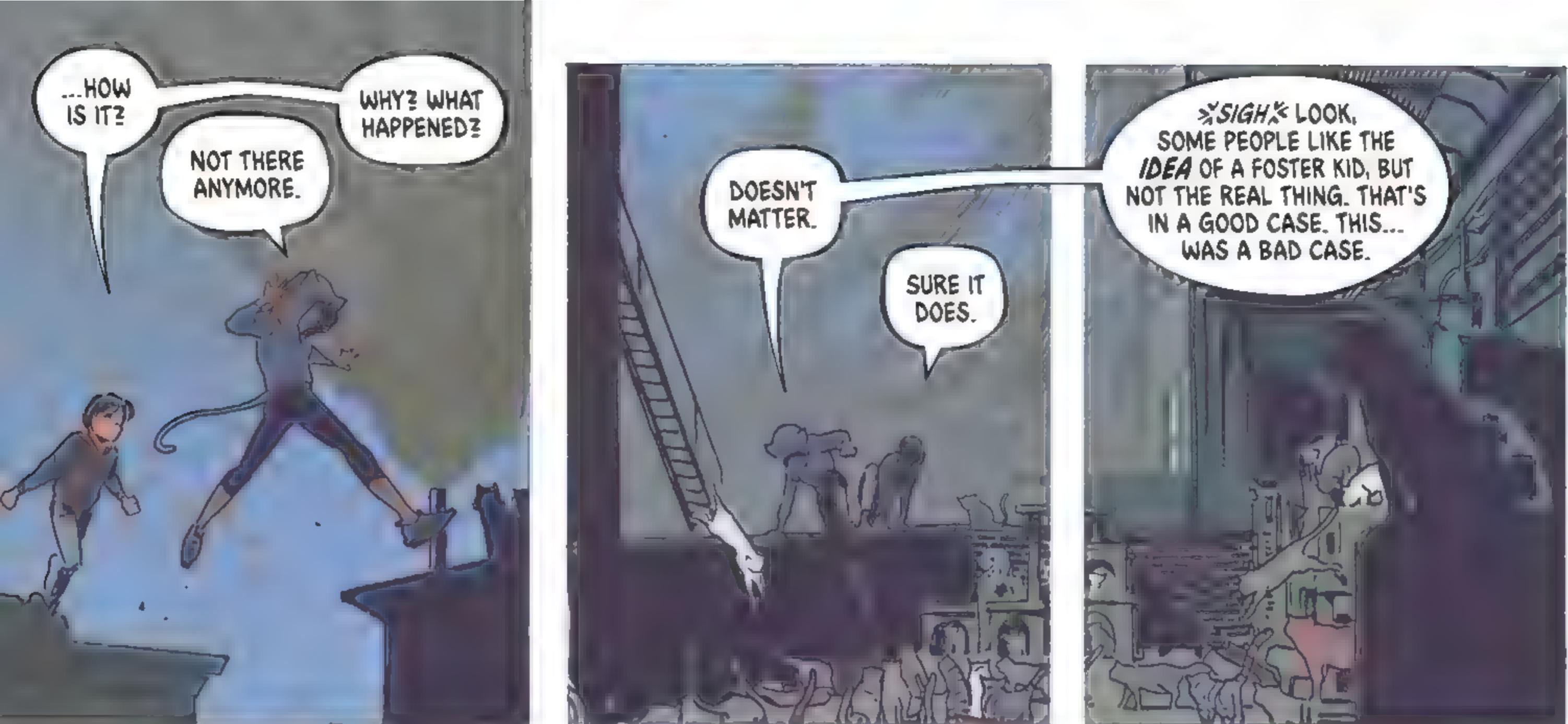


WE MAKE A DECENT TEAM, KID. TELL ME YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GET US OUT OF THIS ONE AND LET'S KEEP IT GOING.

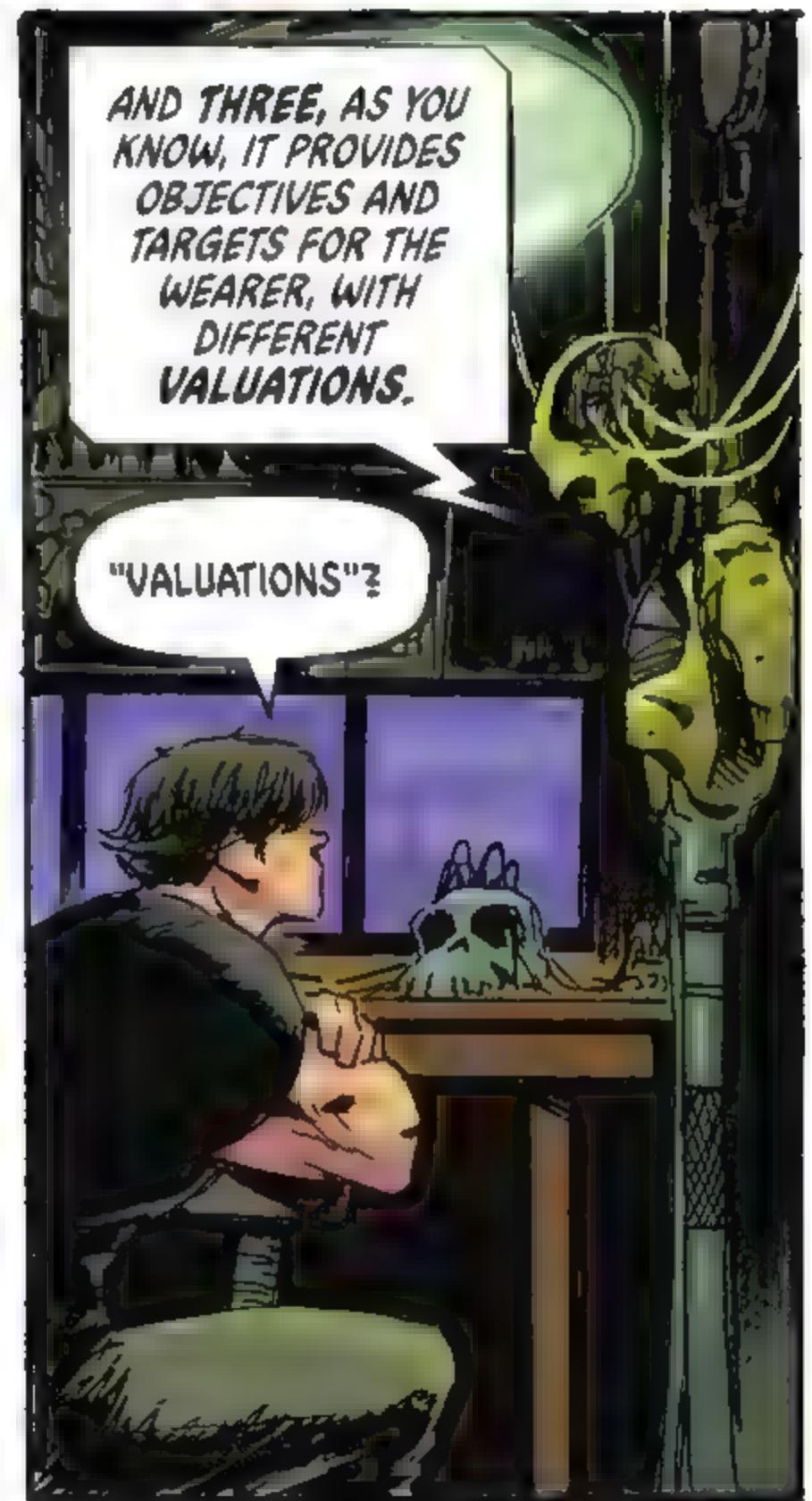
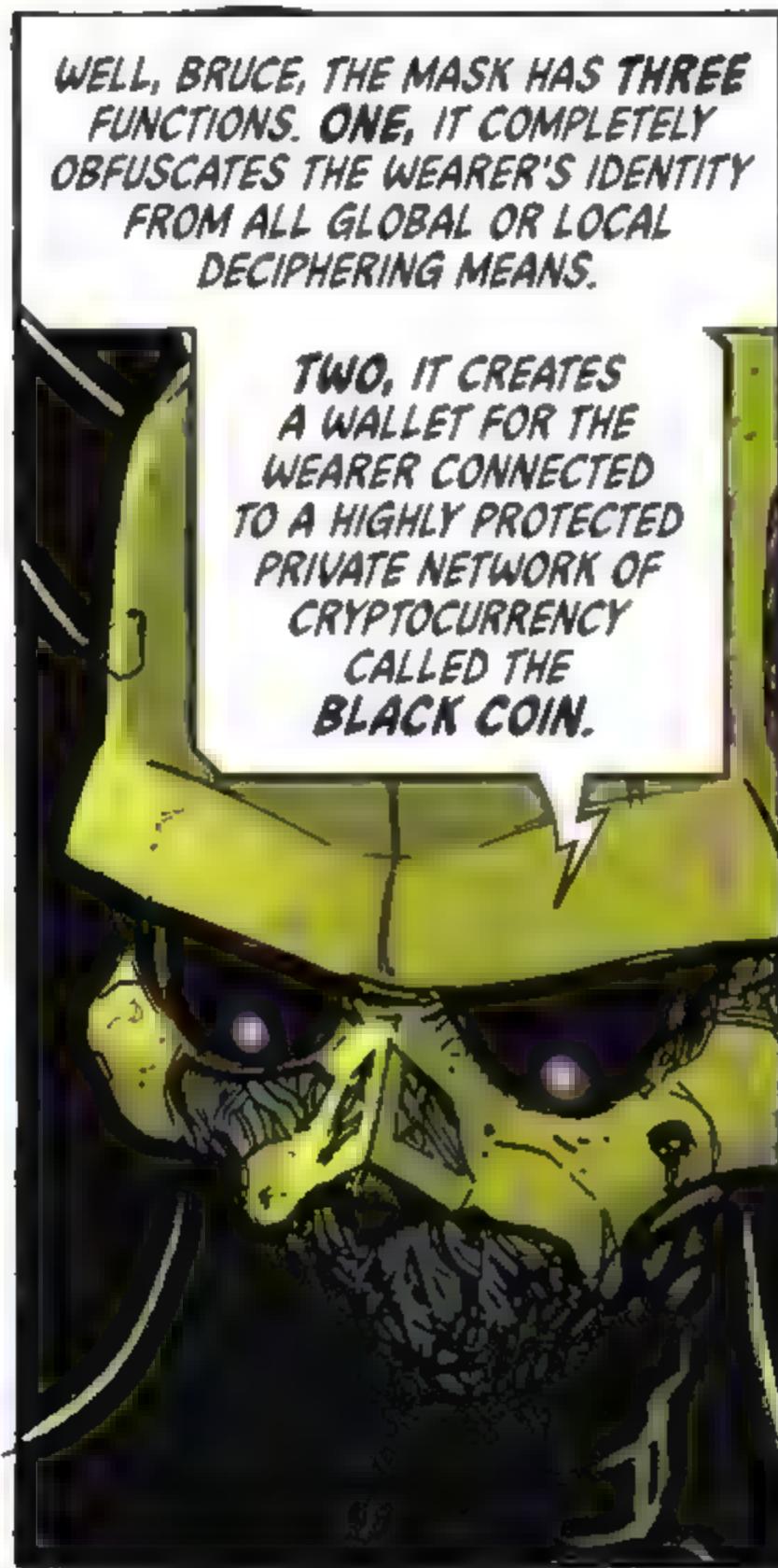
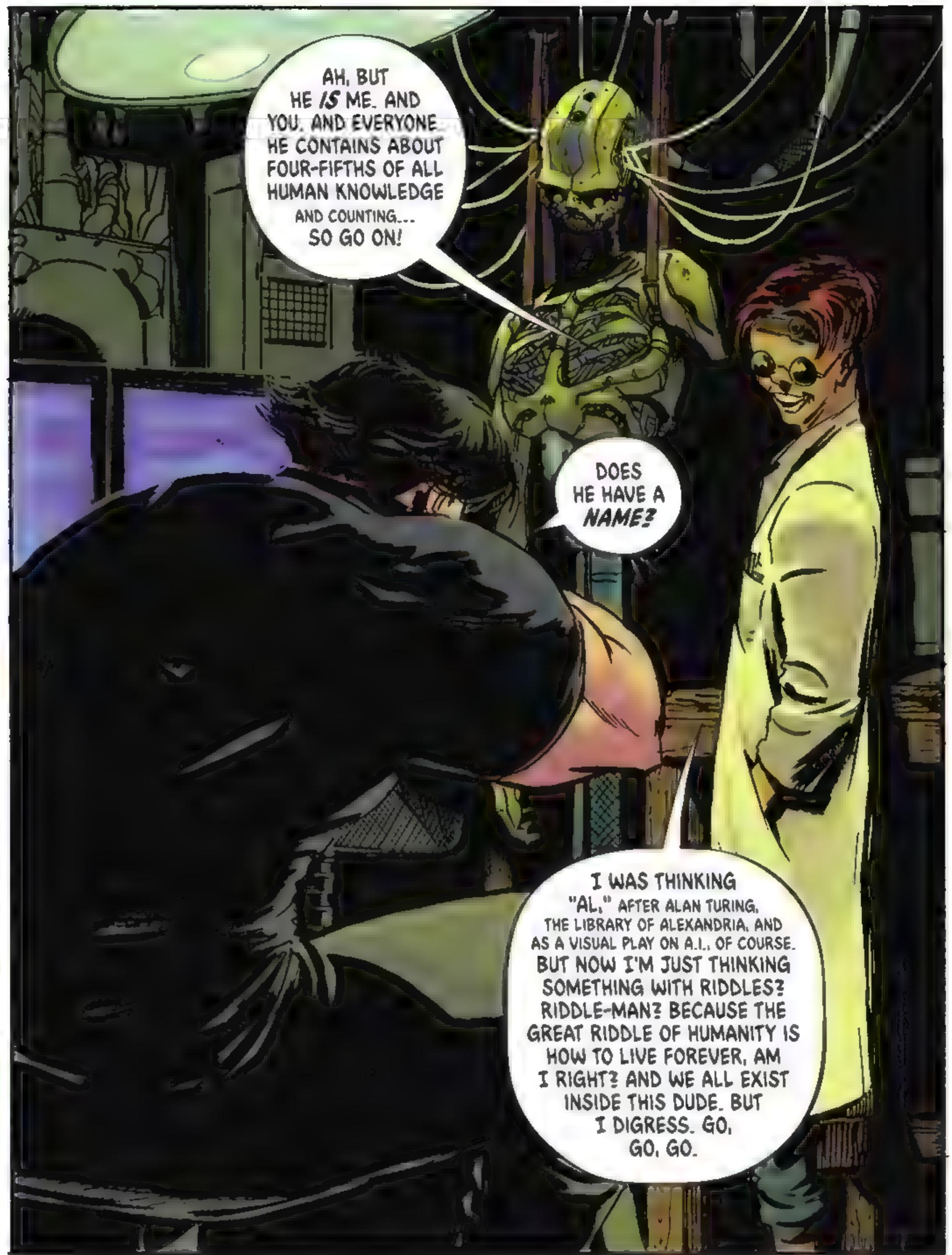
THE LEVER IN FRONT OF YOU.

ALL RIGHT TH--









ARSON, ROBBERY,  
MURDER... EACH HAS A  
DIFFERENT VALUE IN BLACK  
COIN. BUT WE'RE TALKING  
TENS AND HUNDREDS OF  
THOUSANDS. MEMBERS  
CAN GET QUITE WEALTHY  
QUITE FAST.

HOW WOULD  
SOMEONE DISRUPT IT?  
THIS NETWORK.

THE  
NETWORK IS FAR  
TOO EXPANSIVE  
FOR ANYONE TO  
BRING DOWN.

YOU COULD TAKE OUT A  
LOCAL SERVER, BUT THE  
NETWORK IS SATELLITE  
BASED. THERE ARE  
DEPOSITS OF THESE  
MASKS ALL OVER  
THE WORLD.

HUNDREDS.  
MAYBE THOUSANDS  
OF MEMBERS.

THERE  
HAS TO BE SOME  
WAY.

THERE  
IS NOT.

BUT SEE,  
YOU DON'T  
ACTUALLY KNOW  
EVERYTHING,  
AL. EDDIE?

JUST DESTROY  
THE MASK AND  
FORGET IT.

COME  
ON--

HE DOESN'T  
WANT TO HELP  
YOU, BRUCE,  
EVEN IF HE  
COULD.

I MAY NOT KNOW  
EVERYTHING, BUT  
I KNOW THAT  
MUCH.

WHY, I'M JUST  
ASKING QUESTIONS.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT THE OLDEST  
KNOWN RIDDLE IS, BRUCE?

"WHAT BUILDING  
DOES A MAN  
WALK INTO BLIND  
AND WALK  
OUT WITH  
SIGHT?"

A SCHOOL.  
KNOWLEDGE IS  
VISION.

ME, I SEE  
A LOT. TOO MUCH.  
SOMETIMES. ADMITTEDLY,  
IT'S WHY FRIENDSHIP  
HASN'T BEEN EASY TO  
FIND... AND WHY I VALUE  
YOURS SO MUCH. SO THIS  
IS ME LOOKING AT  
YOU, AND ASKING  
YOU TO PLEASE.  
STOP.

HOLD  
ON, IT'S  
HARVEY.

TAK

I HAVE  
ONE MINUTE  
BEFORE I HAVE  
TO BE IN COURT  
WITH A JUDGE  
WHO HATES  
MY FACE.

BUT I DID  
WHAT YOU ASKED.  
LOOKED INTO THE  
ARK M FUND, THOUGH  
IT COULD GET MY  
ASS FIRED.

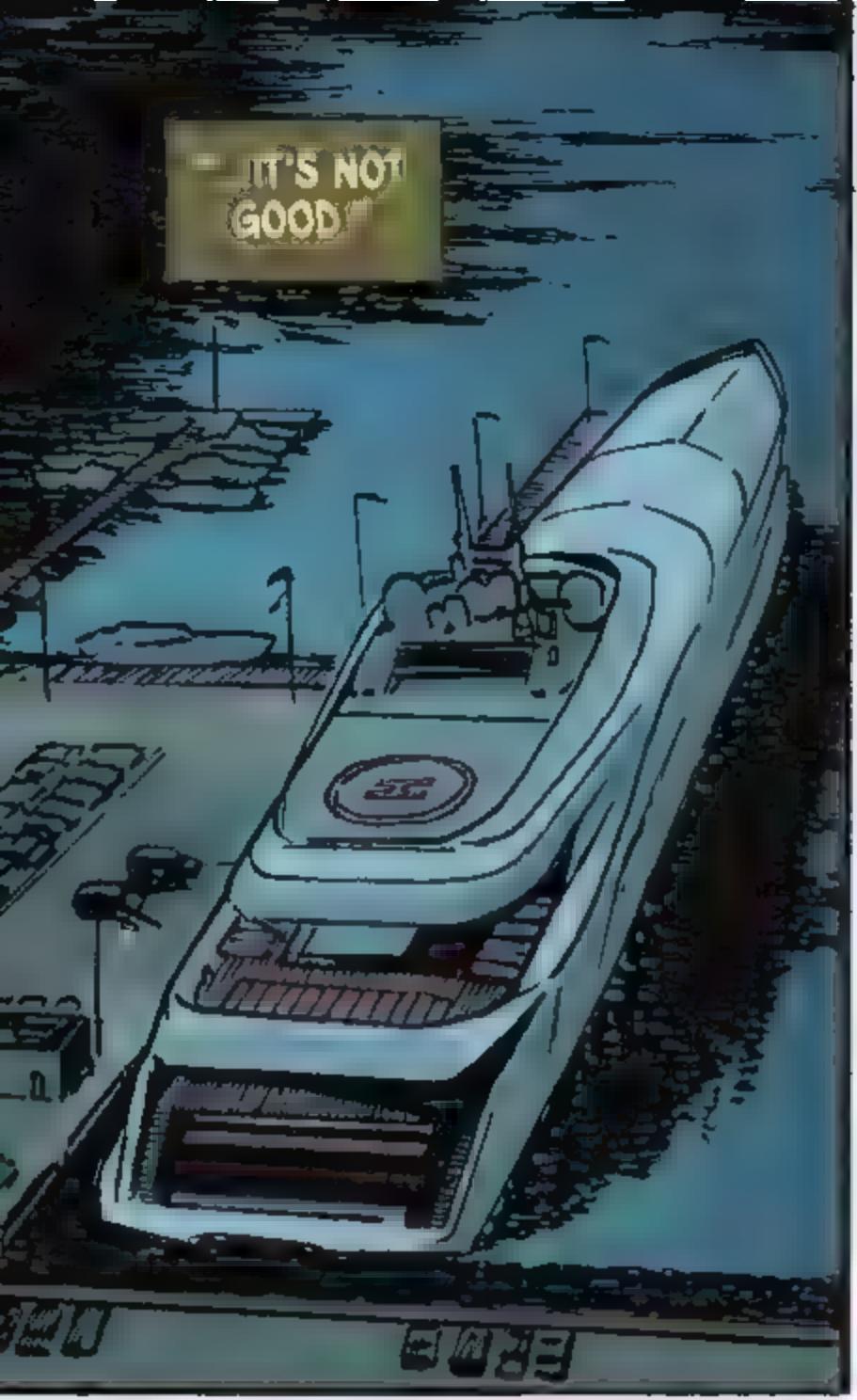
A LOT OF  
THE FUNDING  
COMES FROM A  
COMPANY CALLED  
J.K. HOLDINGS.

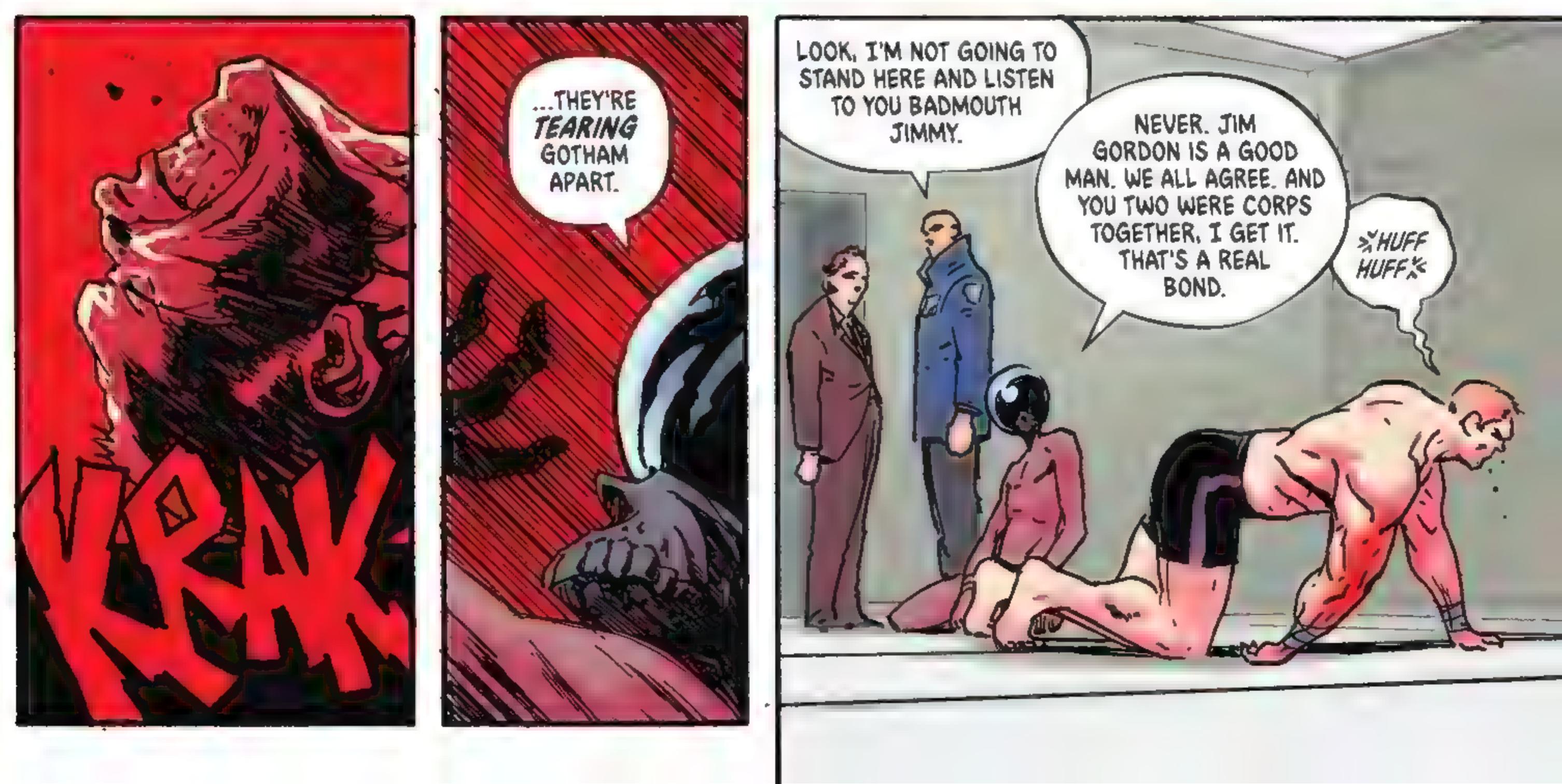
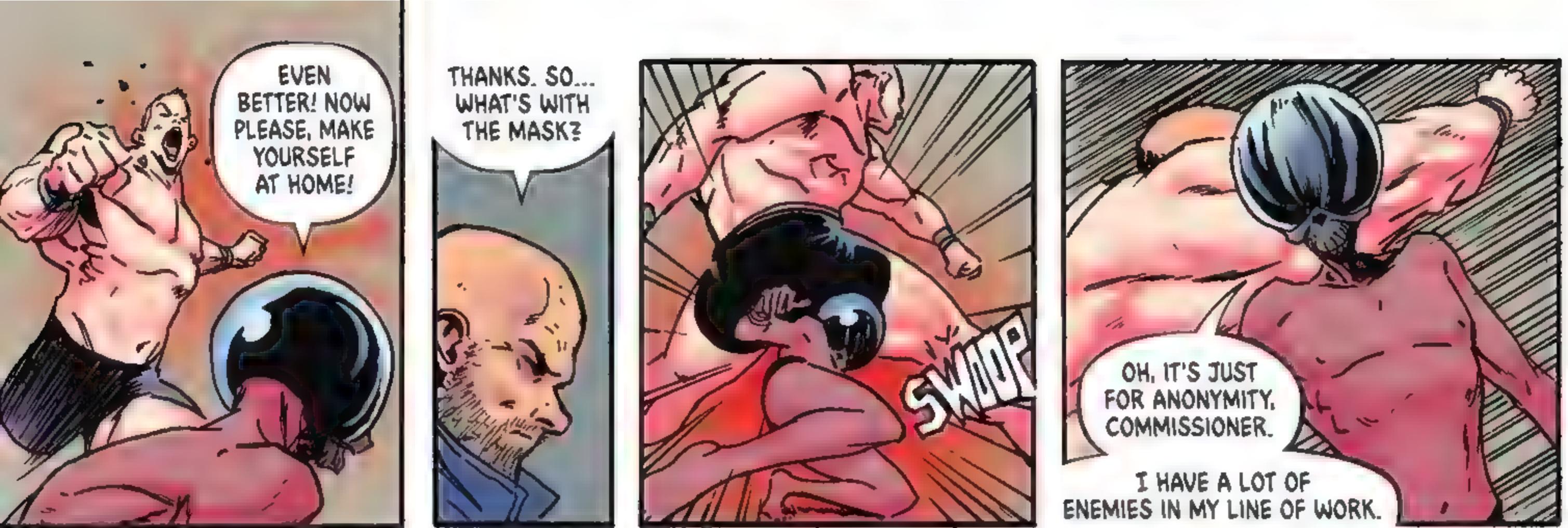
HIGHLY DIVERSIFIED,  
SUBSIDIARIES ACROSS THE  
GLOBE, BUT ONE SPECIALTY IS  
BUILDING SECURE FACILITIES...  
PRIVATE PRISONS, BRUCE.

AND NOT JUST  
ORDINARY ONES,  
EITHER. BLACK  
SITES.

AND THESE SITES, THEY HAVE  
INVESTMENT FROM BIO TECH,  
PHARM, EVEN GENOMICS FIRMS.  
WHATEVER IS HAPPENING  
AT THESE PLACES...



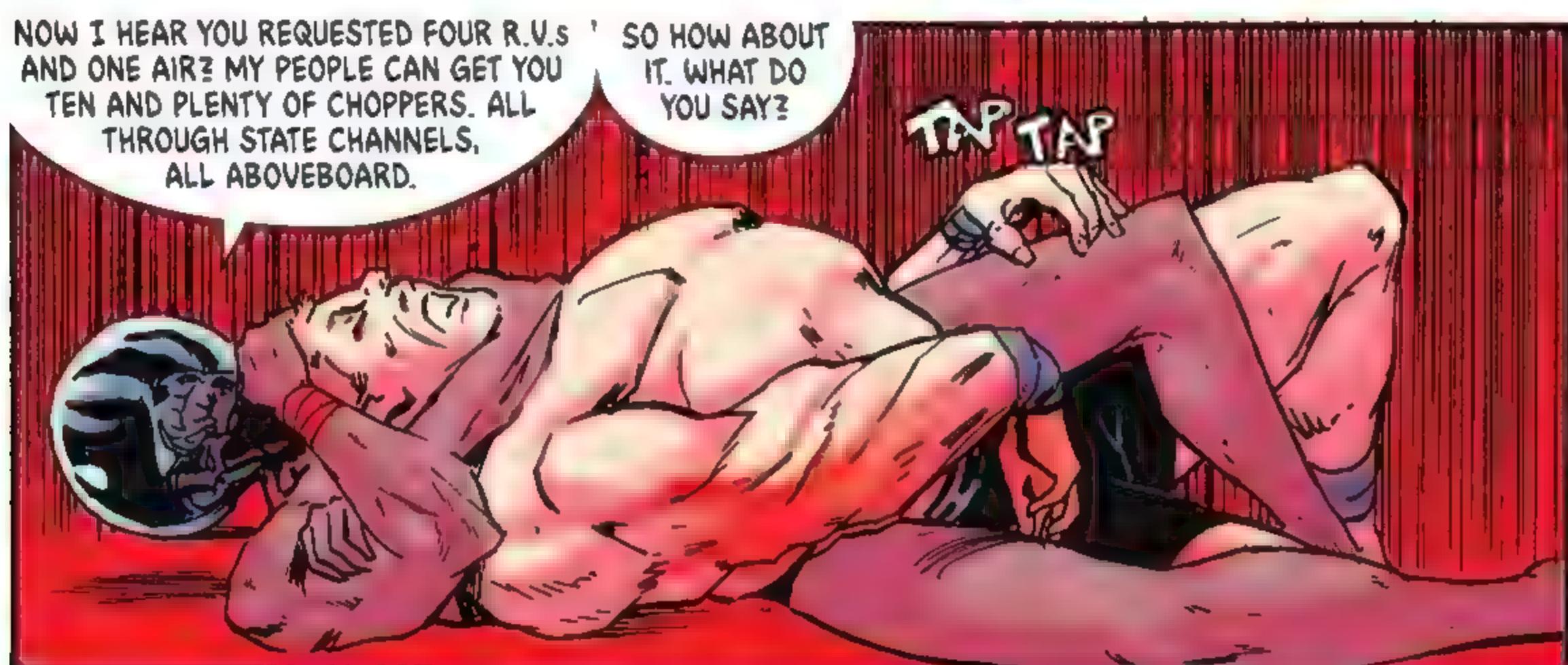






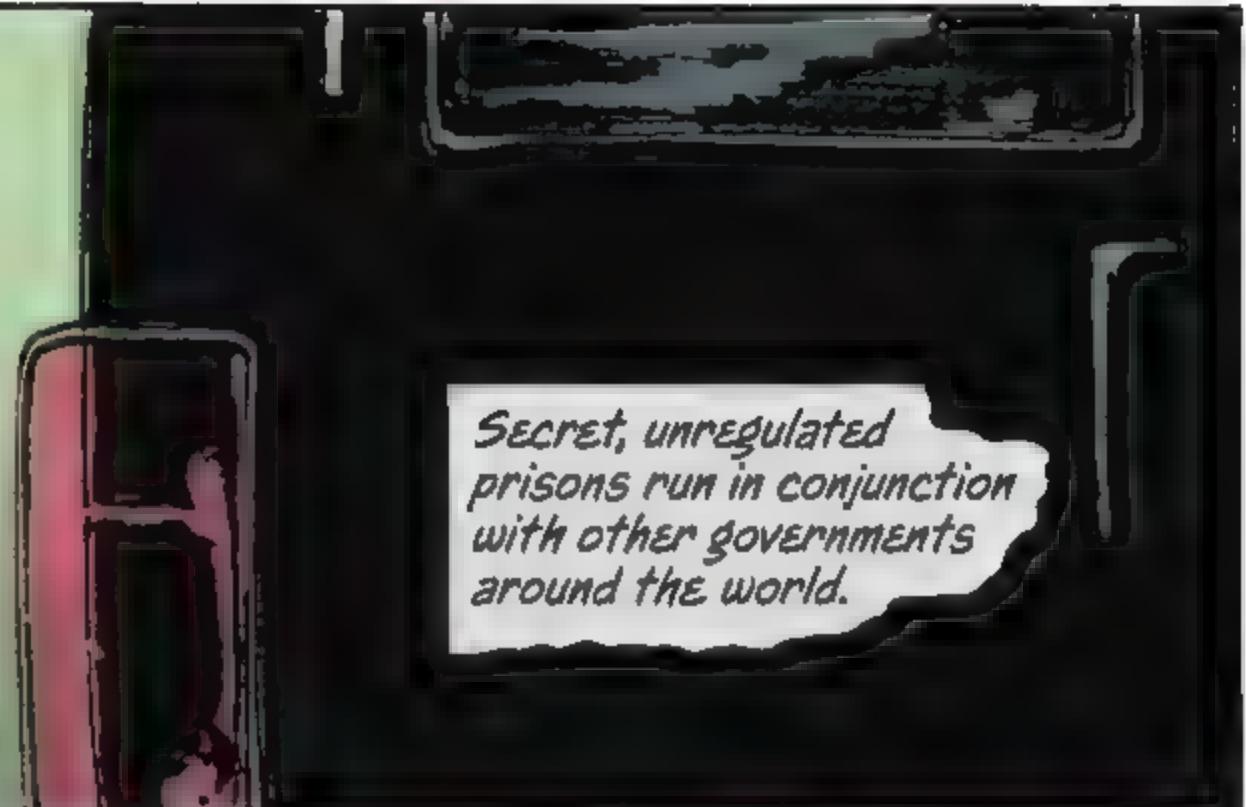
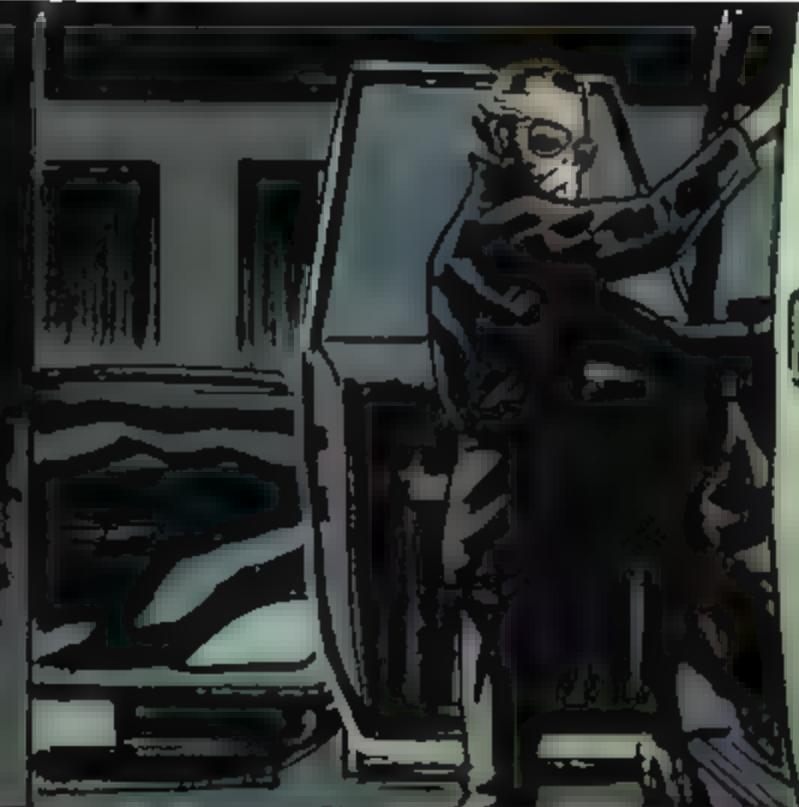
NOW I HEAR YOU REQUESTED FOUR R.U.S'S AND ONE AIR? MY PEOPLE CAN GET YOU TEN AND PLENTY OF CHOPPERS. ALL THROUGH STATE CHANNELS. ALL ABOVEBOARD.

SO HOW ABOUT IT. WHAT DO YOU SAY?



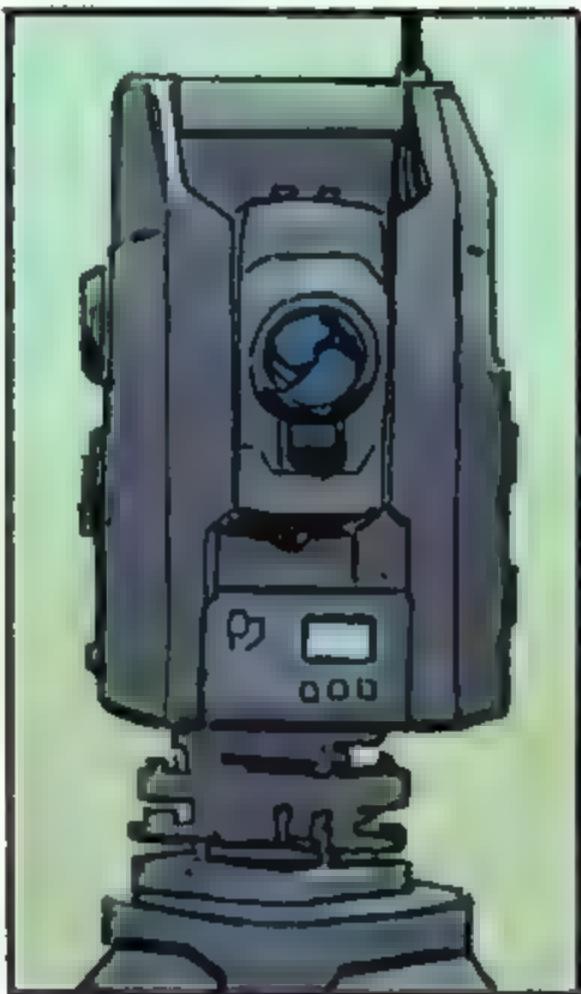
Your eyes open yet, Bruce?  
You starting to see  
the pieces?

They call them "Arks,"  
these black sites.



Secret, unregulated  
prisons run in conjunction  
with other governments  
around the world.

Ark A was the first, the prototype  
in Santa Prisca. Ark B is in Russia.  
Ark C is China.

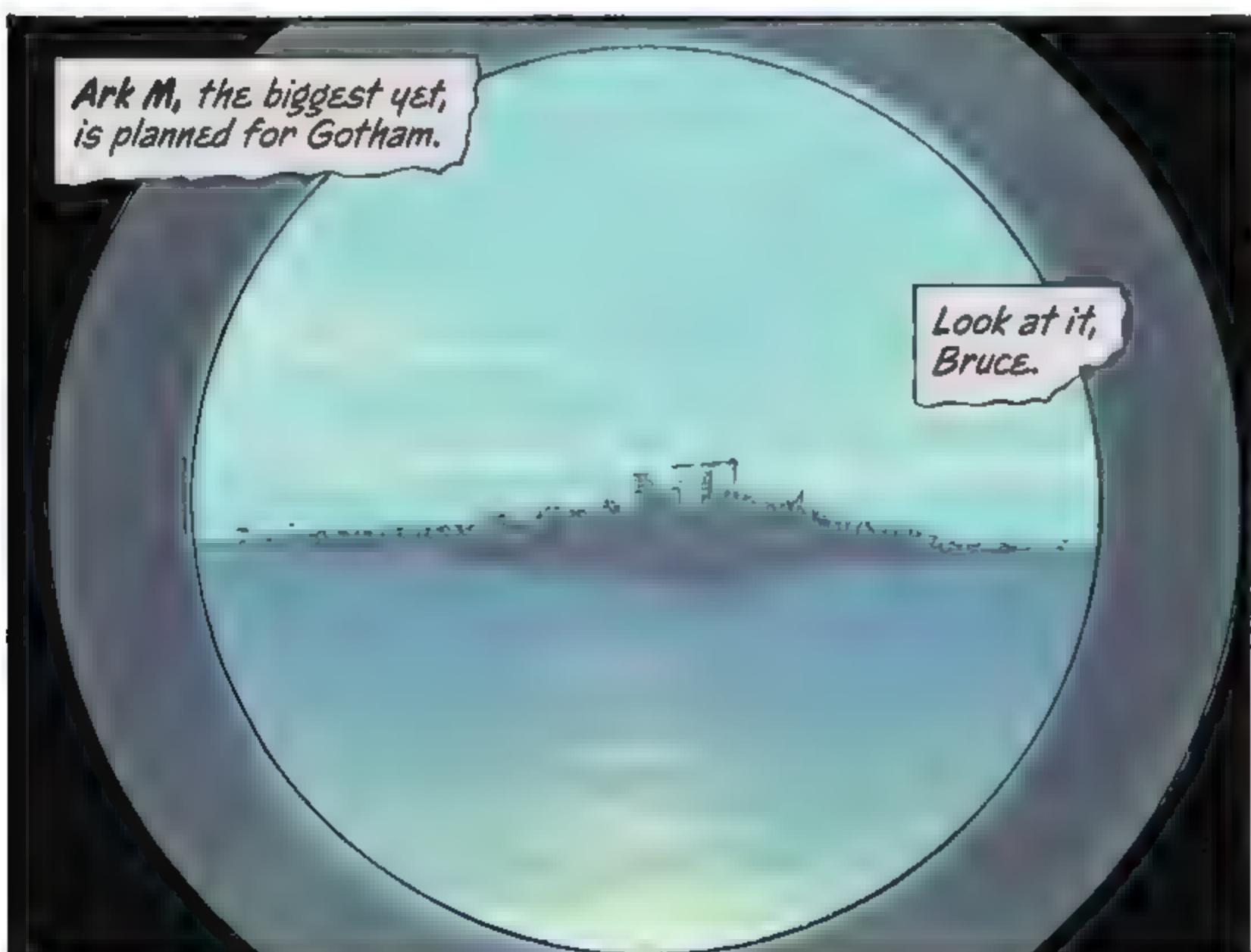


Ark M, the biggest yet,  
is planned for Gotham.

Look at it,  
Bruce.

Look at what  
you're up  
against.

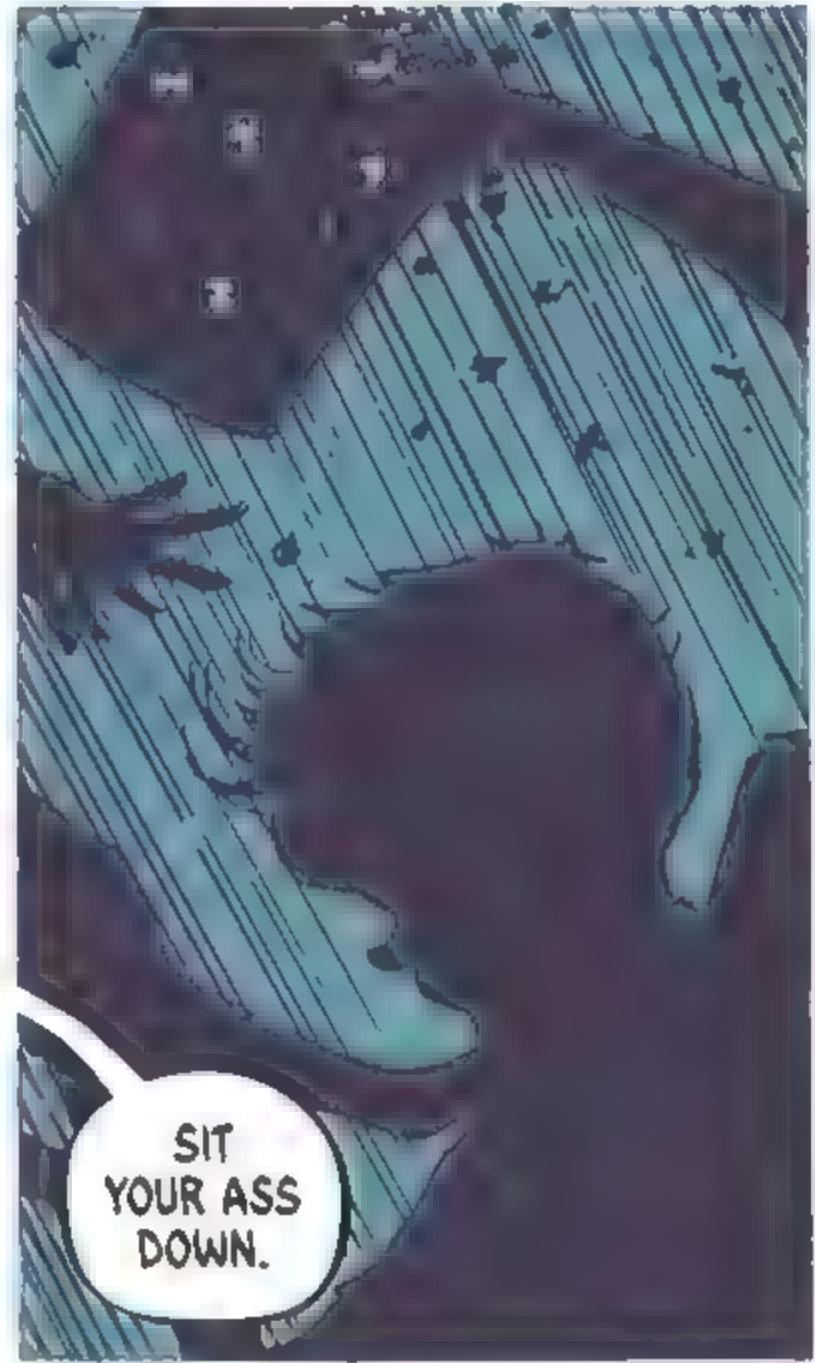
And all you  
could lose...



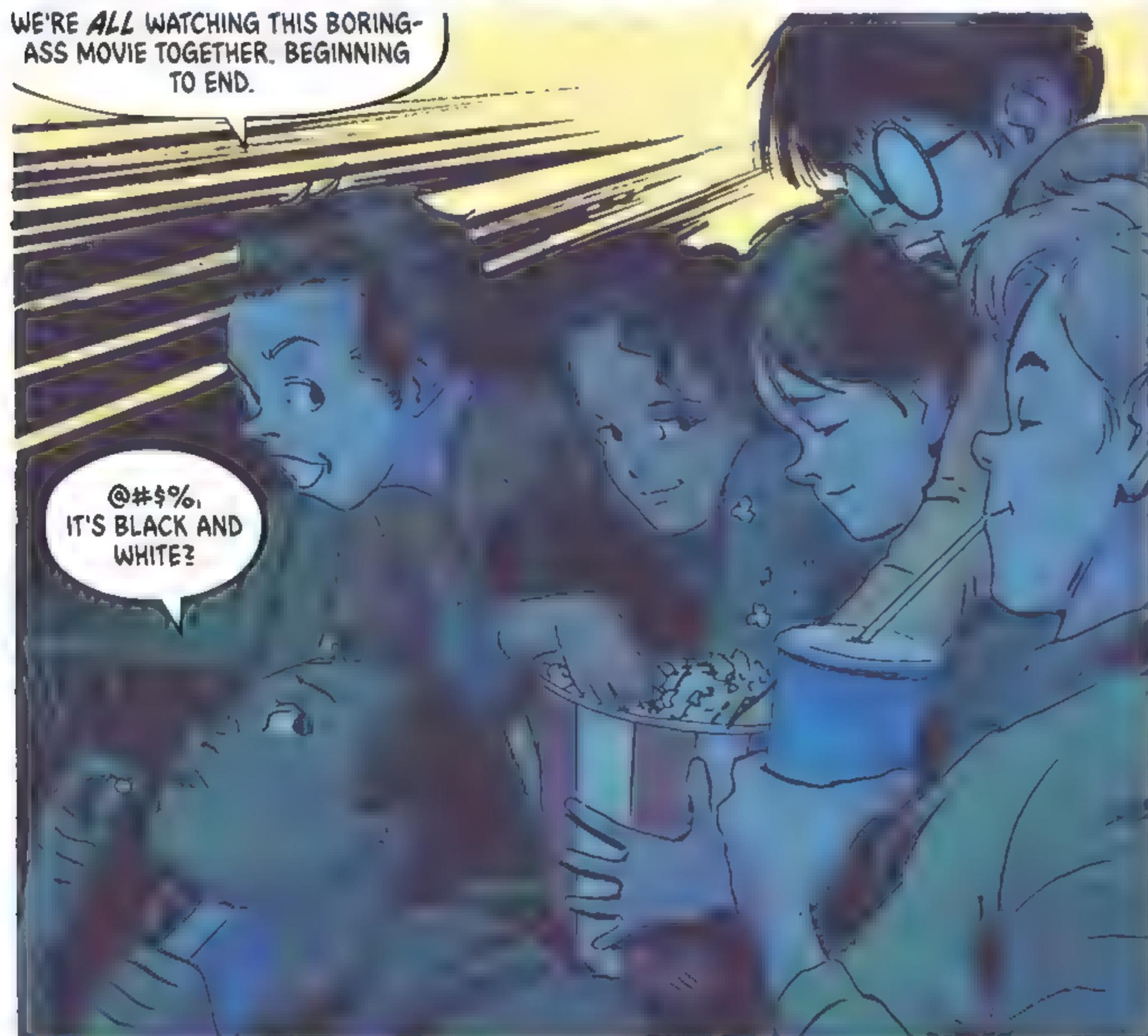


WELL, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MEAN SOMETHING, BRUCE. YOU'VE GOT TALENTS OTHER KIDS DON'T HAVE. AND YES, IT'S SCARY AND DANGEROUS AND NEW, BUT YOU NEED TO BLOCK THAT OUT AND GO RIGHT AT IT.

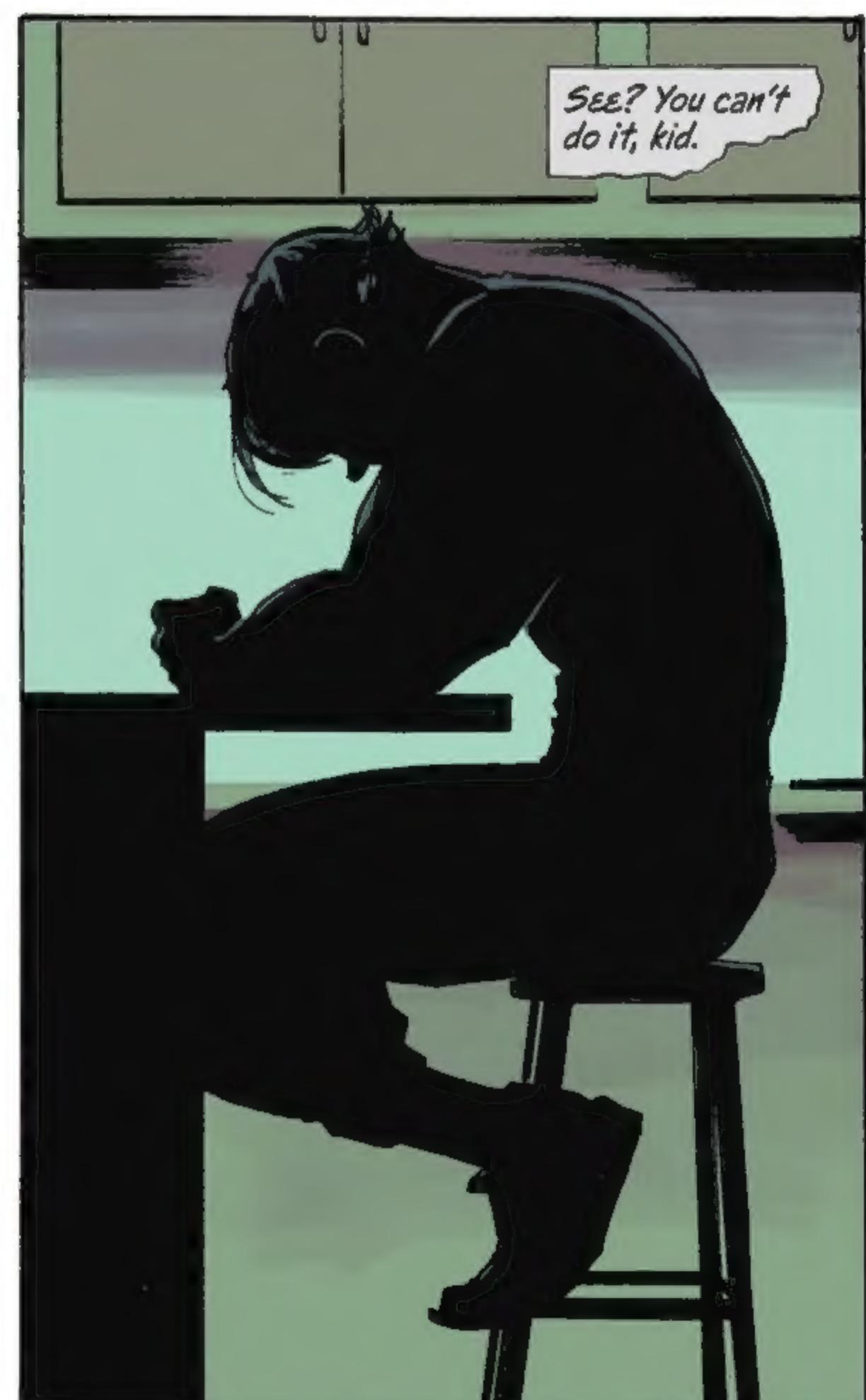
CAT EYES...

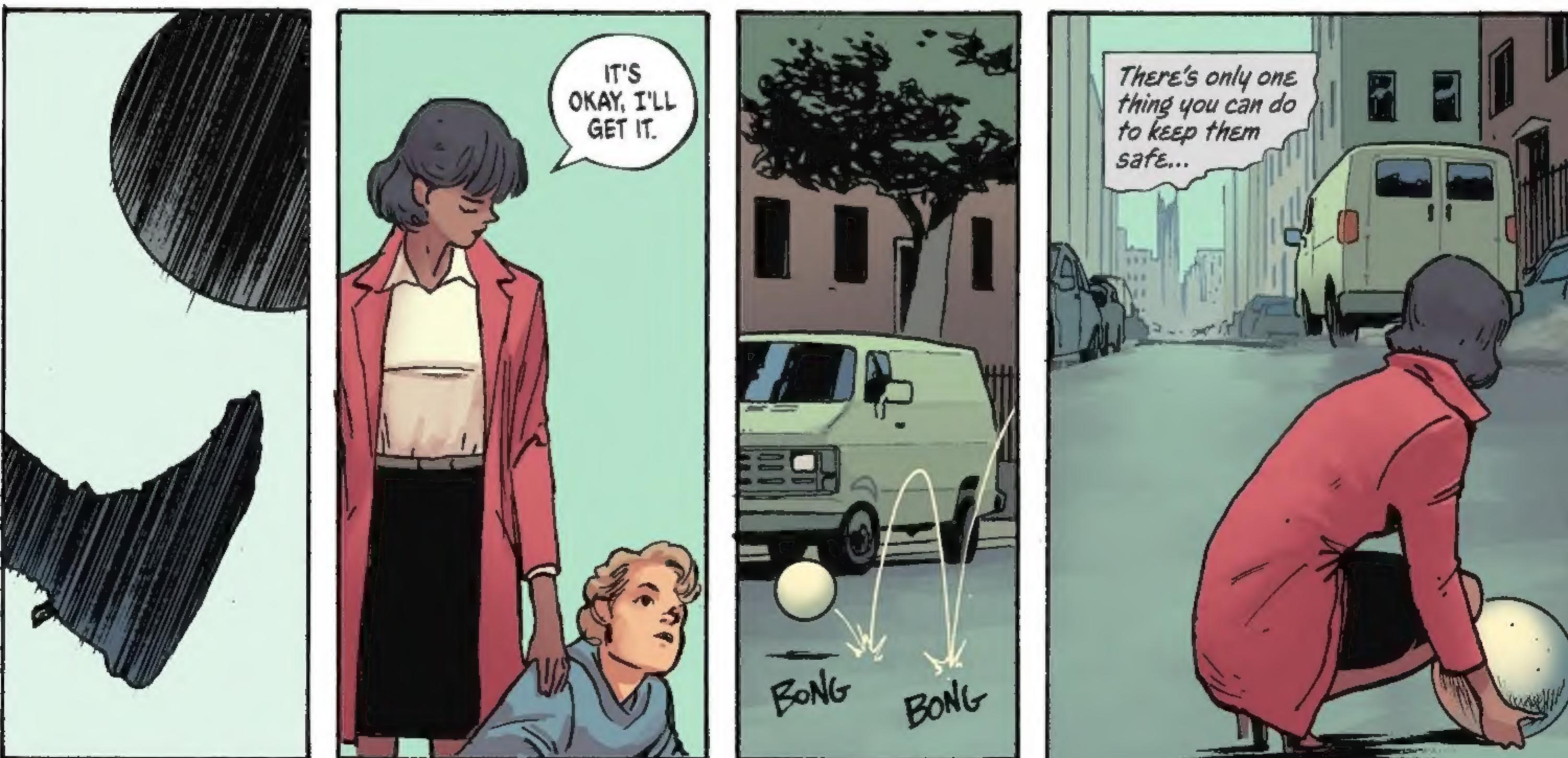


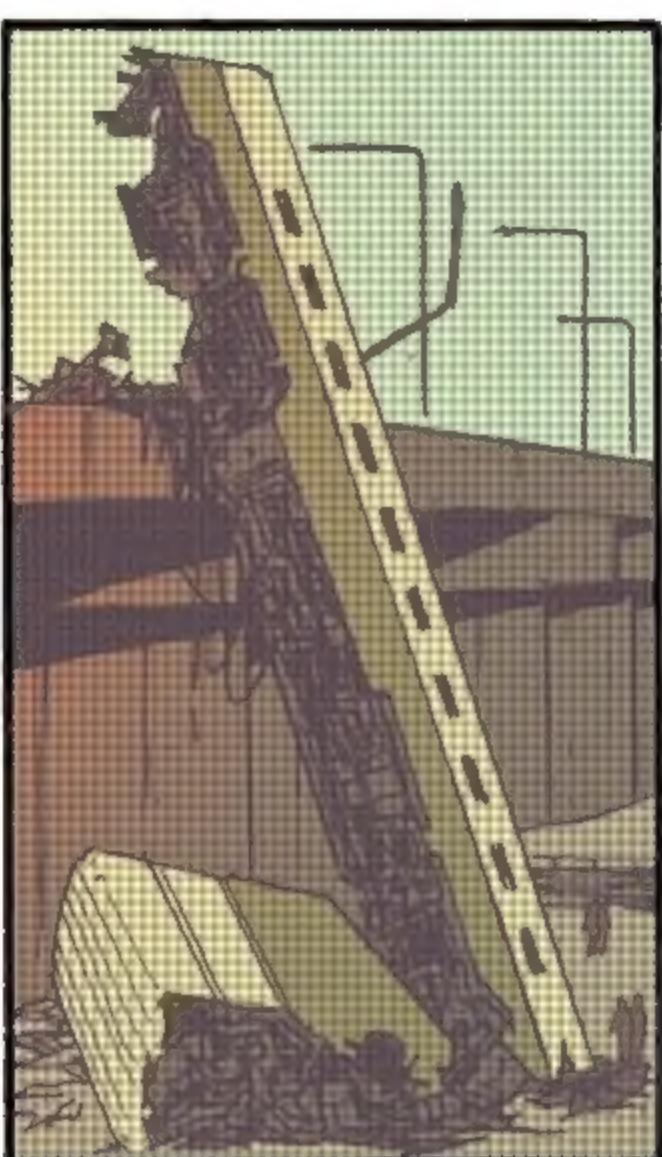
WE'RE ALL WATCHING THIS BORING-ASS MOVIE TOGETHER, BEGINNING TO END.



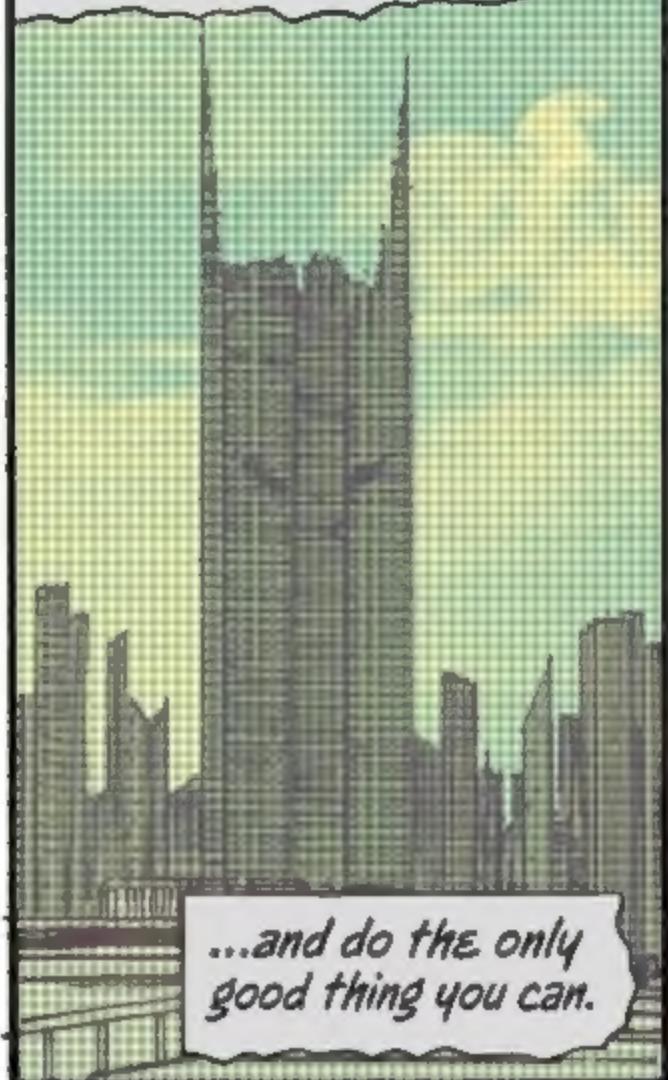




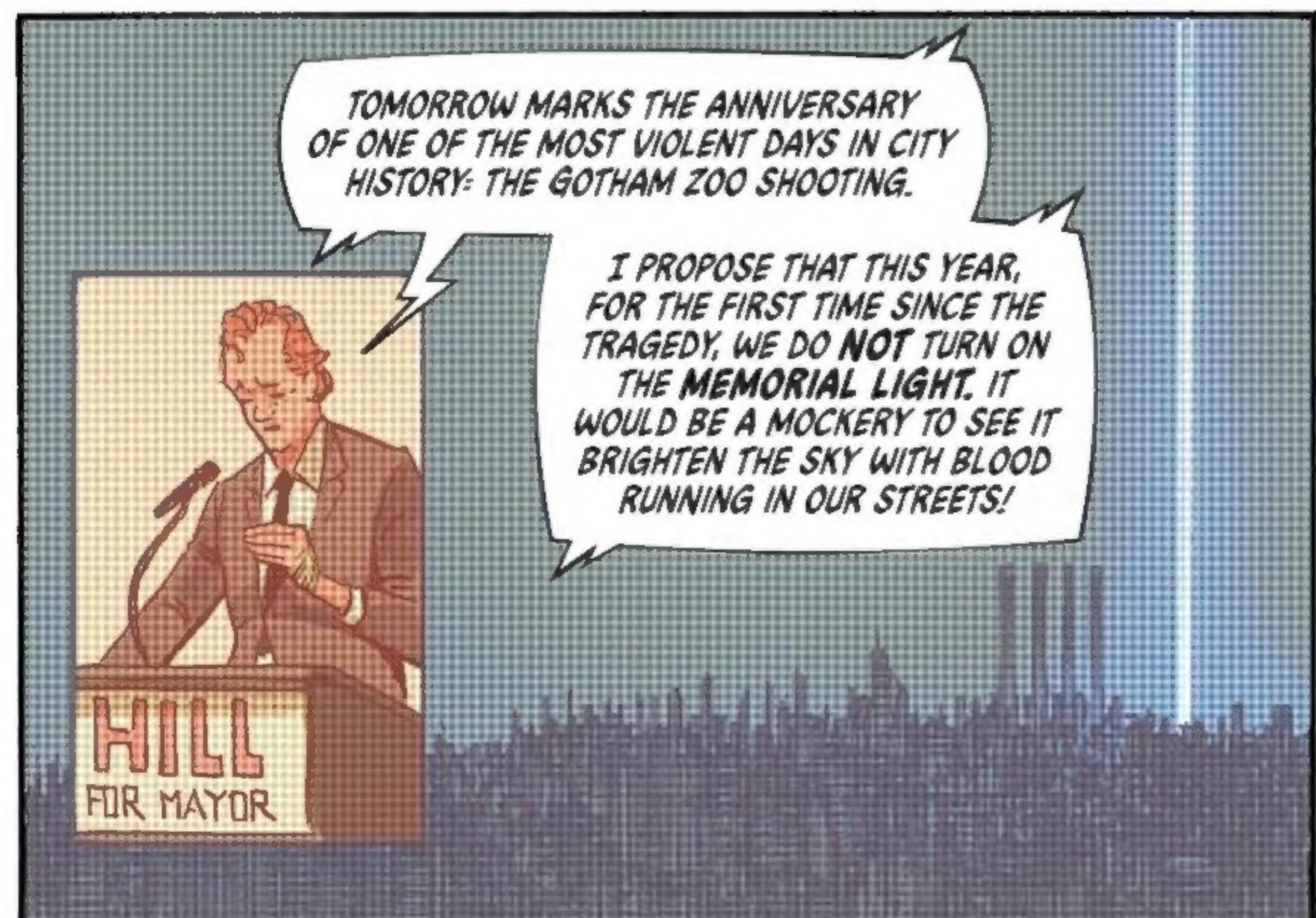
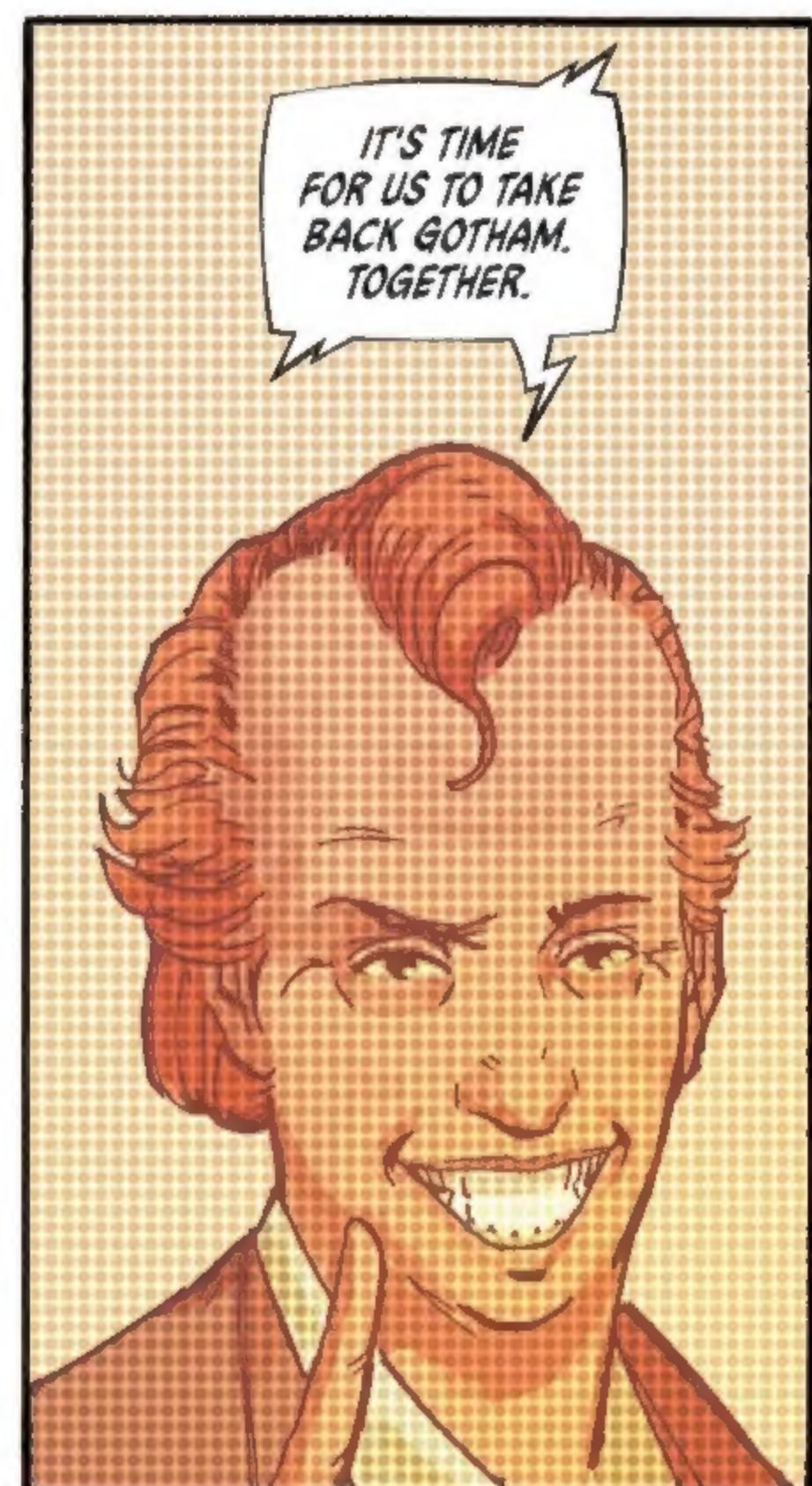
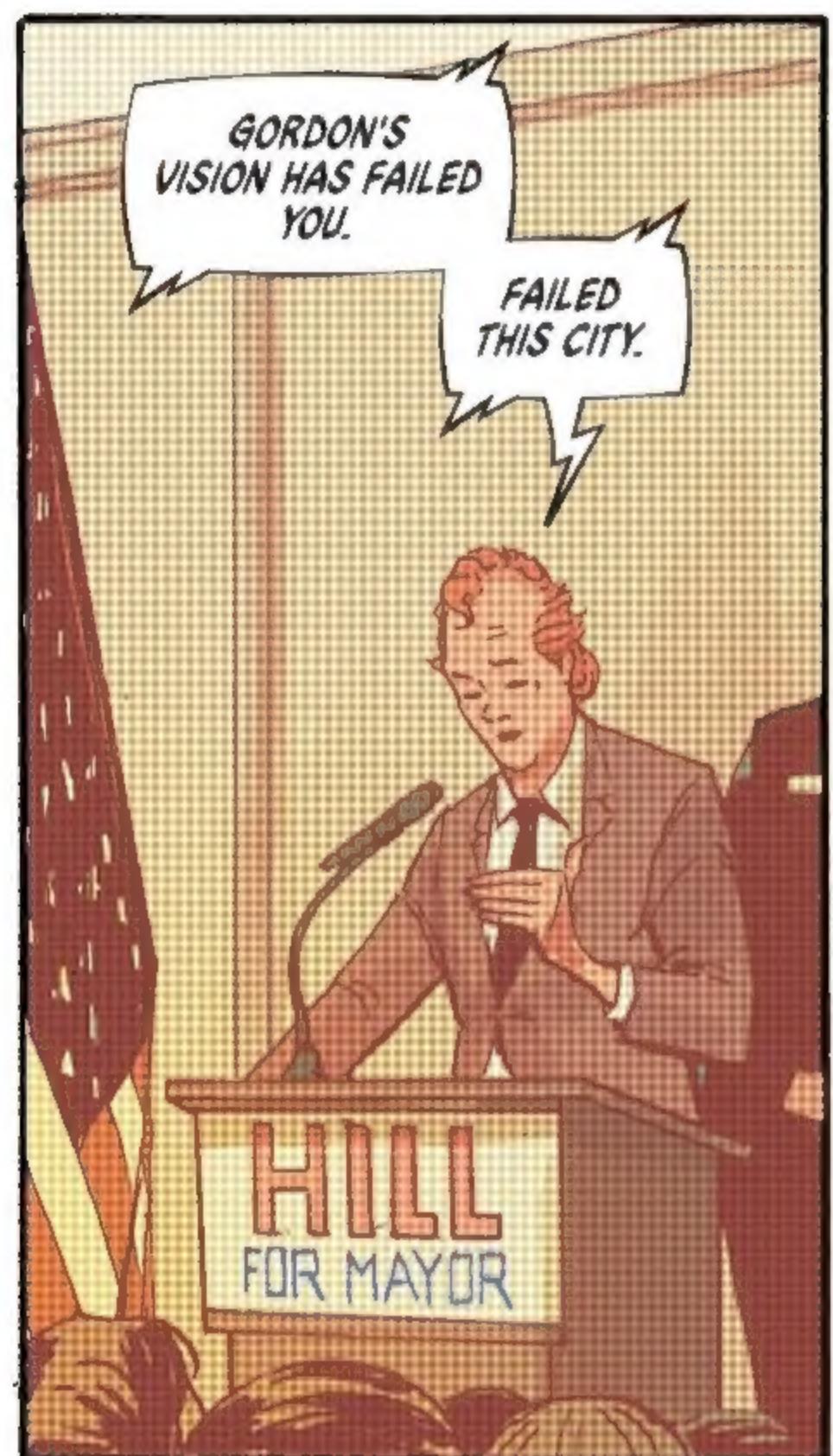




Look around, past your fists, at all the people who'll get hurt. Look up past the towers, the satellites, at the forces at work. A whole sky tilted against you. And then look down past your feet, at how far you could fall...



--PARTY ANIMALS TERRORIZE IN BROAD--  
--MAYOR GORDON, STILL HOSPITALIZED, TELLS PEOPLE TO RESIST FEAR--





...THAT'S RIGHT. TWO HUNDRED MILLION TO STAND DOWN FOR ONE WEEK AND I'LL MAKE SURE WE GO A LITTLE BIT EASIER ON OLD GOTHAM.

NOW, I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUDDY, BUT I HOPE YOU'RE SMILING JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

